Learn Needle Tatting

Step-by-Step

Barbara Foster

Handy Hands Tatting

Learn Needle Tatting Step-by-Step

By
Barbara Foster

In ALL we do give God the Glory!

Copyright 1998 by Handy Hands, Inc., Paxton, IL.
All Rights Reserved. Printed in the United States of America.
First Edition.
ISBN: 1-883432-05-7

Welcome to the simply beautiful, beautifully simple world of needle tatting. An ancient form of lace making, tatting is easily recognized by its graceful rings and loops—all the product of a single, easy-to-master stitch. Today's needle tatters are enthusiastic about its versatility, technical simplicity, and take-it-with-you-anywhere convenience. They are happily reviving old techniques and patterns, developing new ones, exploring new materials, and spreading the word about this enjoyable, elegant art.

Tatted lace can be created with a shuttle or needle. Shuttle tatting may be better known because in Victorian times, when women pursued their needlework on social visits, shuttles enabled them to show off their graceful hands. Gem-encrusted or silver shuttles allowed them to demonstrate their social standing, too. But needle tatting, while less glamorous than shuttle tatting, was not unknown in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

A Step-by-Step Guide

Compiled into a single convenient volume, this book includes Barbara Foster's *Needle Tatting Book 1* and *Book 2*, originally published in 1989. Additional designs and full-color photos enhance this new volume.

Here you will find techniques to help you create beautiful tatted laces. You will learn to form the double stitch; make picots, rings and chains; join new thread; and more. Directions, along with photos and diagrams that illustrate them, are clear, complete, and easy to follow.

The patterns help you learn the techniques, illustrate design possibilities and demonstrate that after learning just a few steps you can create simple, stylish lace.

Barbara also shows you the formats in which patterns are written, to help you read both contemporary and old-style tatting instructions. Her abundant tips and notes help make your tatting easy, successful and problem free. If you are left-handed, you will find a special section with instructions just for you.

Designs and Projects

Once you have mastered the basics, you can tat lovely edgings, doilies and more. Try holiday trims, heirloom baby gifts, romantic wearables, and home or personal accessories for family and friends.

For more patterns and additional techniques, such as adding beads or working split rings, refer to *Handy Hands'* catalog for needle and shuttle tatters.

About the Author

A needle tatter since 1989, Barbara Foster has developed a line of greeting cards to embellish with simple tatted blossoms (Great for beginners!), written instructional and pattern books and produced a video for beginning and intermediate students. She also publishes *Helping Hands Newsletter* for needle and shuttle tatters.

Handy Hands Inc., Barbara's mail-order company, specializes in tatting supplies from around the world. For a free catalog and sample newsletter, send three first class stamps to Handy Hands Inc., 577 N 1800 E Rd, Paxton, IL 60957.

Joan Cravens, Founder
I Love Needlework Fair

Contents

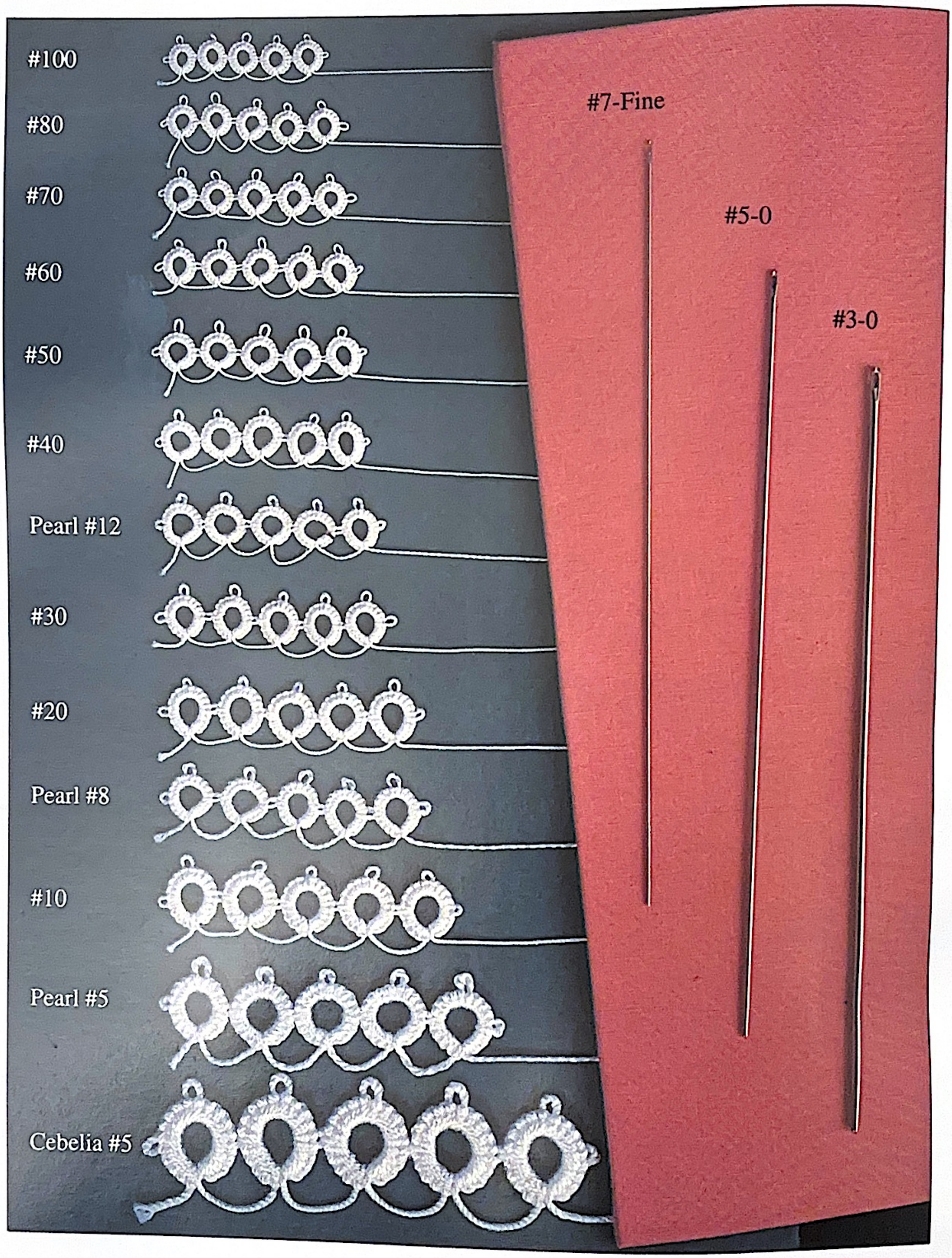
Thread Comparison Chart 4
Definitions of Abbreviations 5
Materials Needed 5
Ring and Thread Method™ 5
Picot 8
Note: How to Count Picots 8
Making a Ring (Ring & Thread) 9
Starting Second Ring (Ring & Thread) 10
Joining 11
Note: Joining Rounds or Rows 12
Tip: Sizing a Picots 12
Tip: Counting 12
What is Ring & Thread Tatting 12
Adding Thread (Ring & Thread) 13
Hiding and Trimming the Tails 13
Bookmark or Towel Pattern 14
Note Card Pattern 14
Needle Sizes for Thread A
Hanky Edging B
Large Butterfly Pattern C
Note Card D
Small Butterfly Pattern D
Ring & Chain Method™ 15
Making a Ring (Ring & Chain) 16
Note: Correcting Mistakes 16
Reversing 17
Note: Ring Formed (Ring & Chain) 17
Tying a Knot 17
Tip: Finding the Right & Wrong Side 17
Making a Chain 18
Note: Working a Ring vs. Working Chain 19
Note: Tying a Knot 20
Adding a Thread (Ring & Chain) 21
Two-Color Tatting 22
Josephine Stitch 23
Left-Hand Double Stitch 24
Collar or Doily Edging Pattern 26
Pillowcase Edging Pattern 27
Medallion and Holly Pattern 28

Thread Comparison Chart

Refer to page A for the appropriate size of needle for thread.

All thread are DMC Cordonnet unless stated.

Actual Size



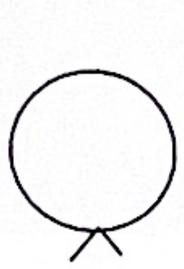
Abbreviations

ds...Double Stitch
(+) or J...Join
Prev...Previous

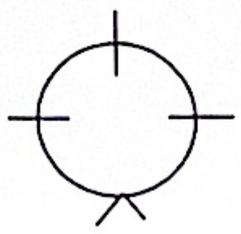
R...Ring
Sep...Separated
Lr...Large Ring

(-) or p....Picot
Sp...Small Picot
Lp...Long Picot

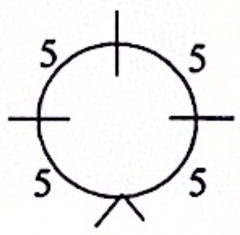
Cl...Close
Rw..Reverse Work
JK...Josephine



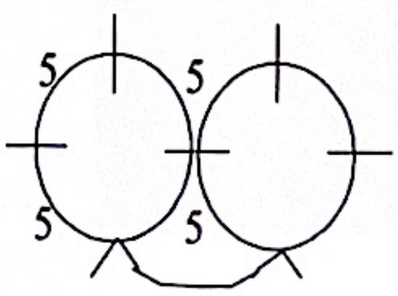
Ring



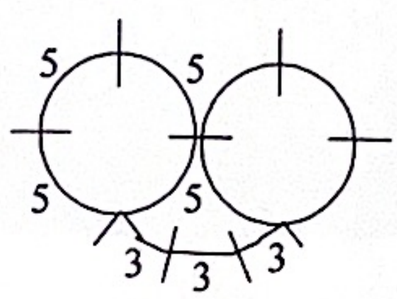
Picots



# of ds between Picots



Thread-Space
No numbers



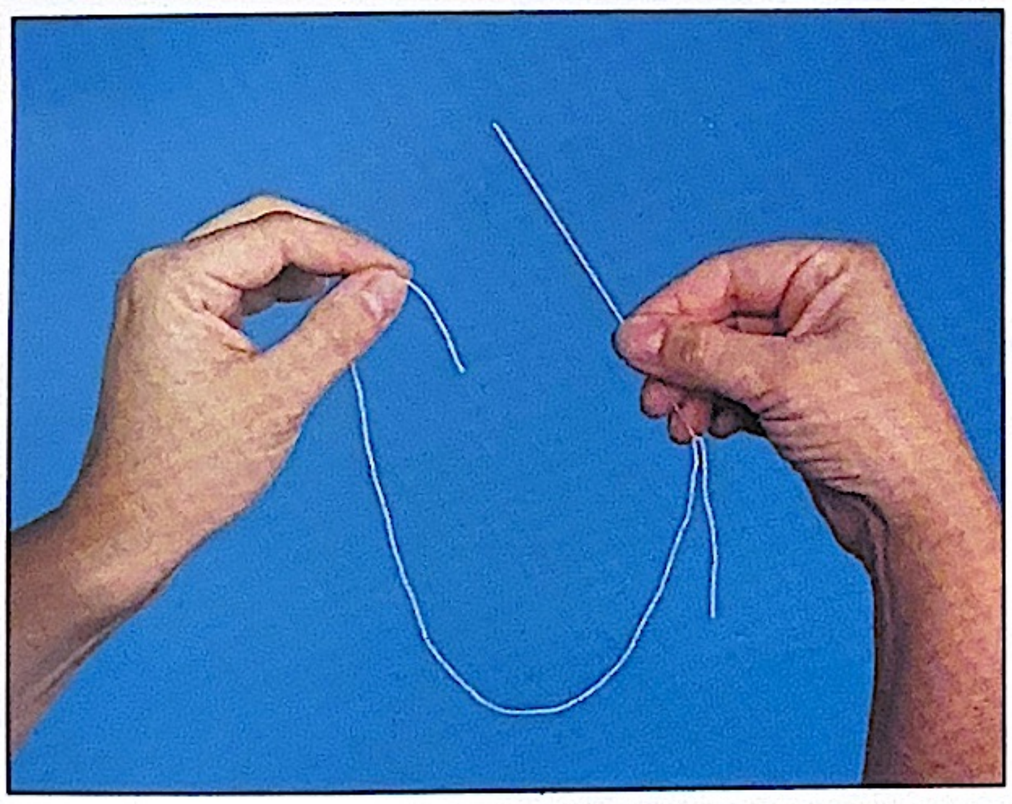
Chain
Numbers

Materials Needed

Beginning needle tatters use a Size #5-0 or larger needle. (A Size #7-fine needle is too small for beginners.) Use the chart of needle and thread sizes in the center of the book (page "A") as a guide. If you have difficulty finding supplies, you may wish to request a catalog from *Handy Hands* (see page 2). Except as noted, tatting in the how-to photos is worked with a #5-0 tatting needle and DMC Cebelia Size 10 thread.

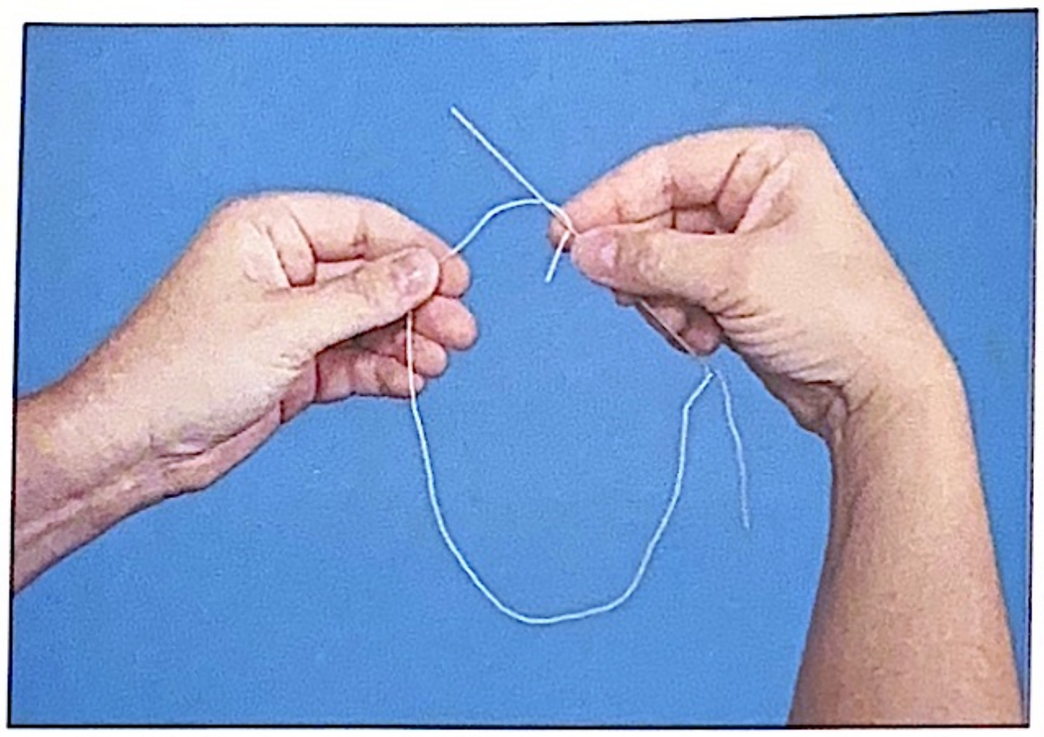
Ring and Thread Method ™
Working with thread cut from the ball

Double Stitch



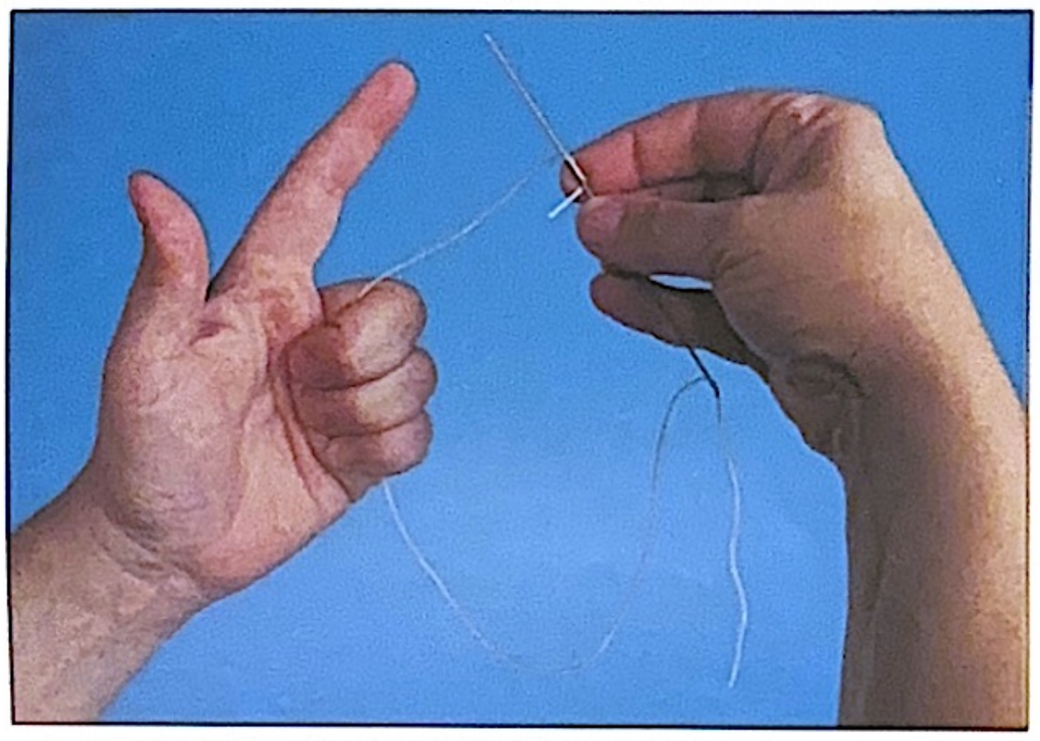
If you are left handed, turn to page 24 for the double stitch instructions.

CUT a length of thread off a ball that is 40" long. Thread the needle.

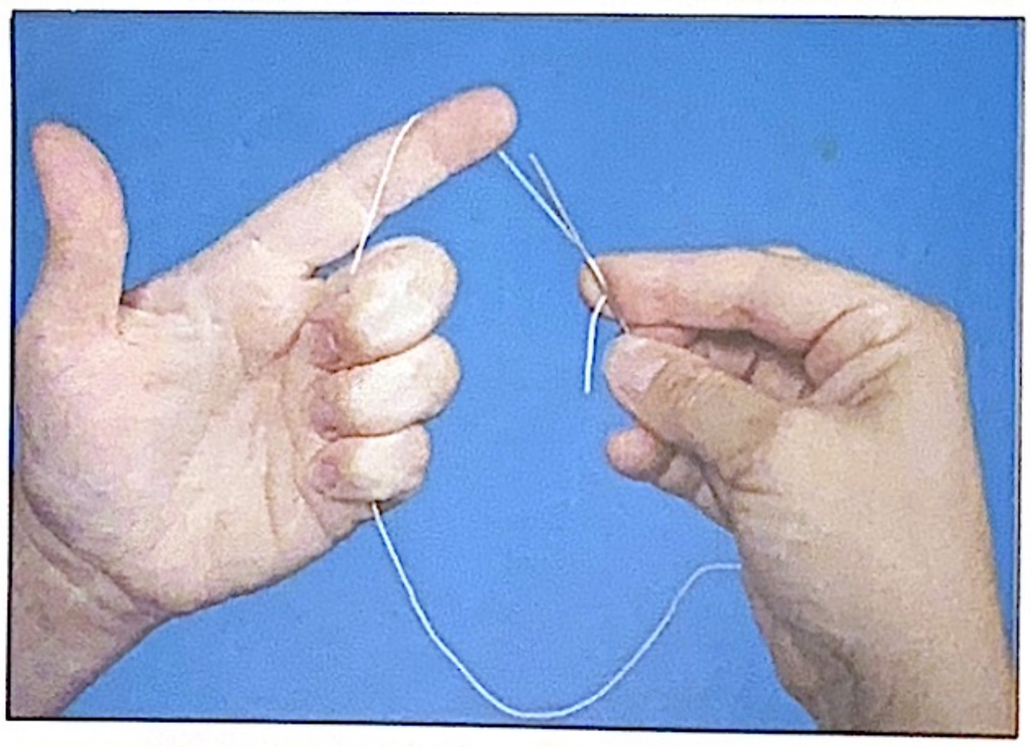


Put the thread behind the needle and hold it against the needle using your right index finger.

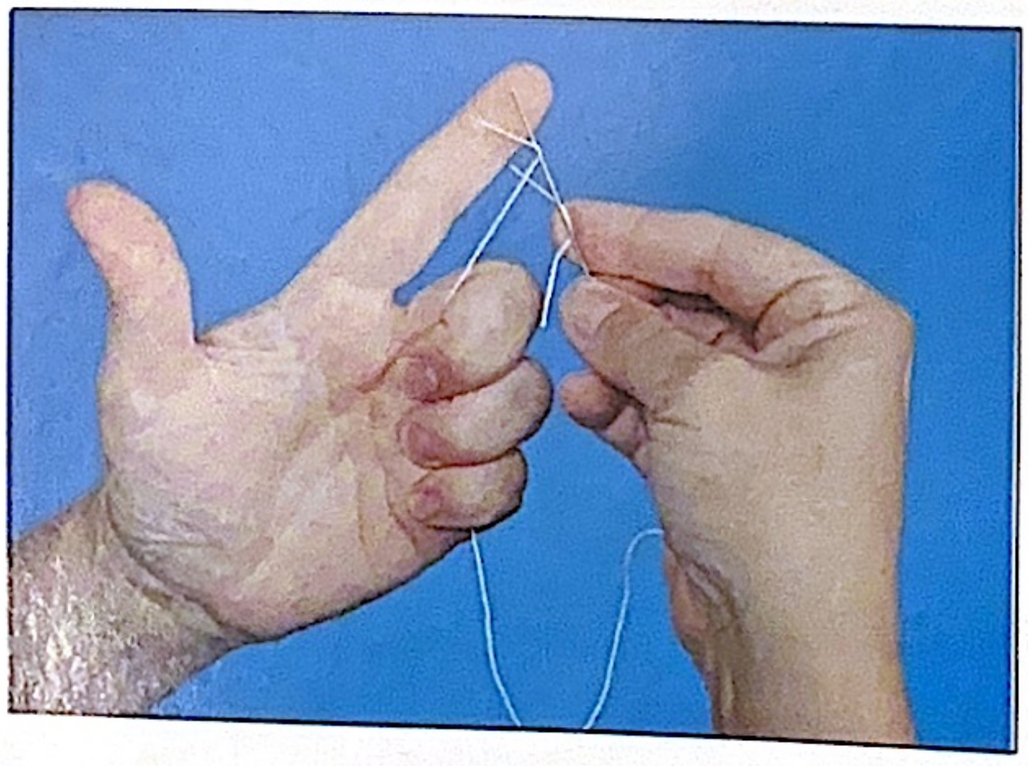
Note: *When you look at the eye of the needle, one thread end is 4" long, the other is 36" long. Pick up the longer (36") thread end to start.*



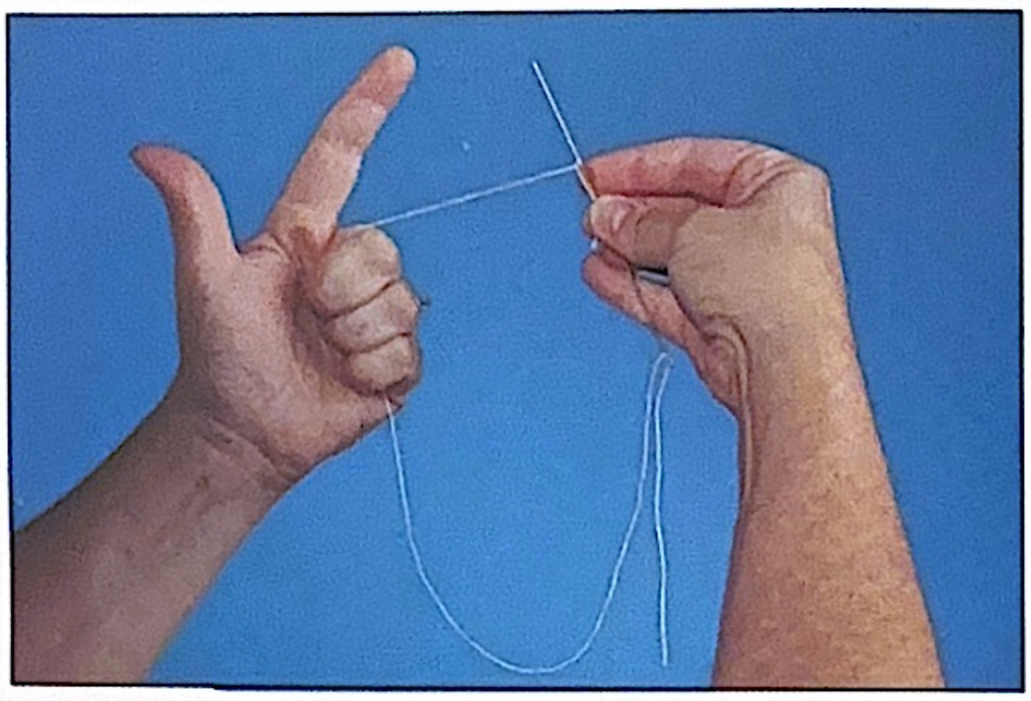
Close your bottom three left fingers to hold the thread. The right index finger holds the thread against the needle.



Wrap the thread on top or over your finger (clockwise around).

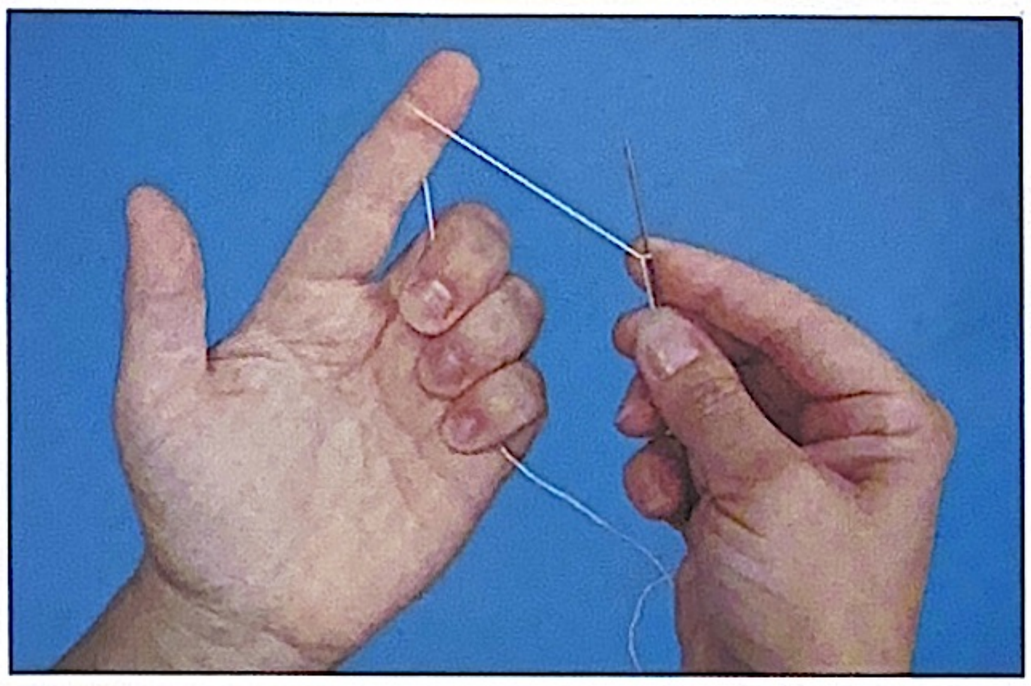


From the bottom of the index finger going upward, slide the needle toward the end of the finger. Put the thread on the needle, then remove your index finger.

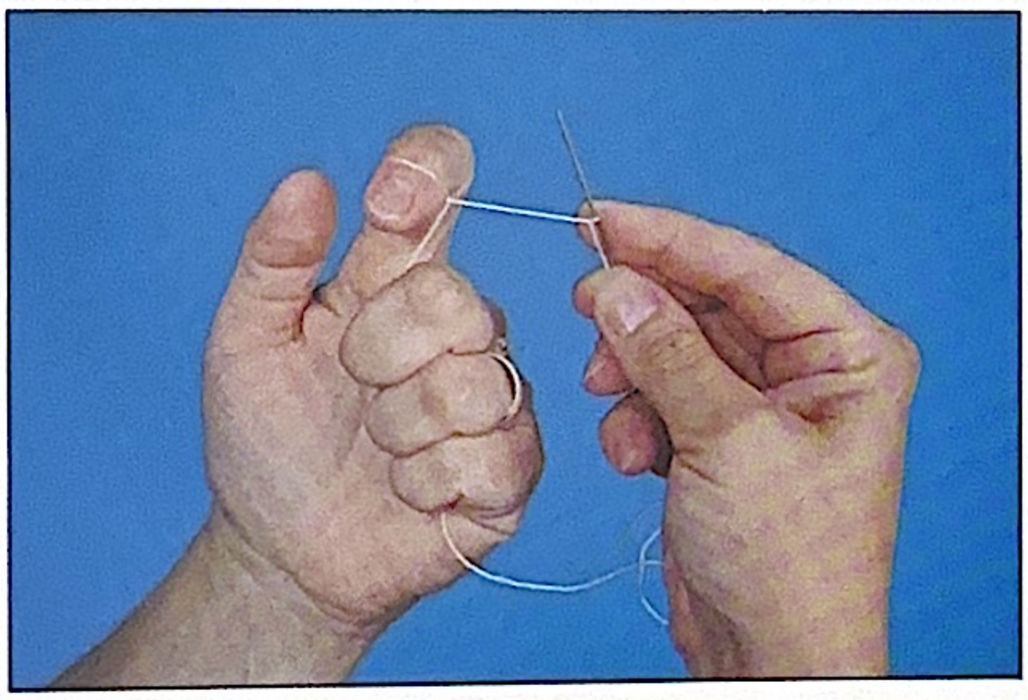


Hold the stitch with the right index finger.

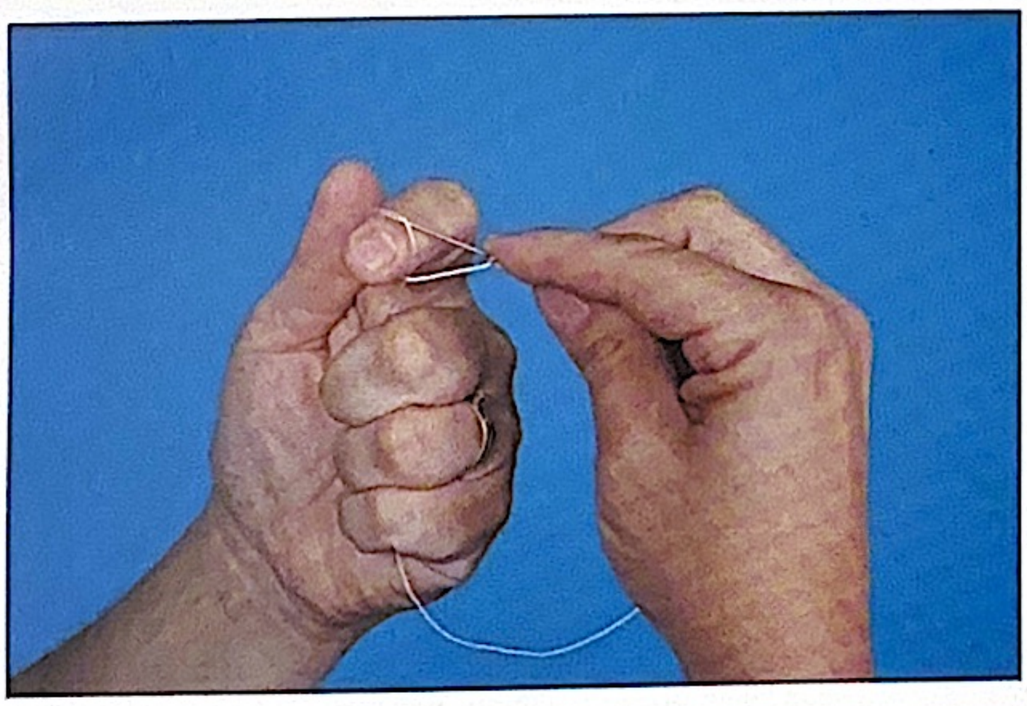
Step 1 of the double stitch is complete.



Next, wrap the thread under or behind your finger (counter clockwise around).



Bend the index finger.

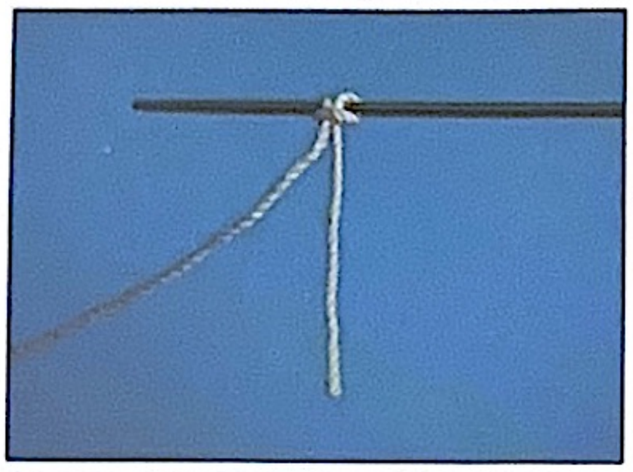


Slide the needle toward the end of the fingernail, put the thread on the needle and remove your index finger.

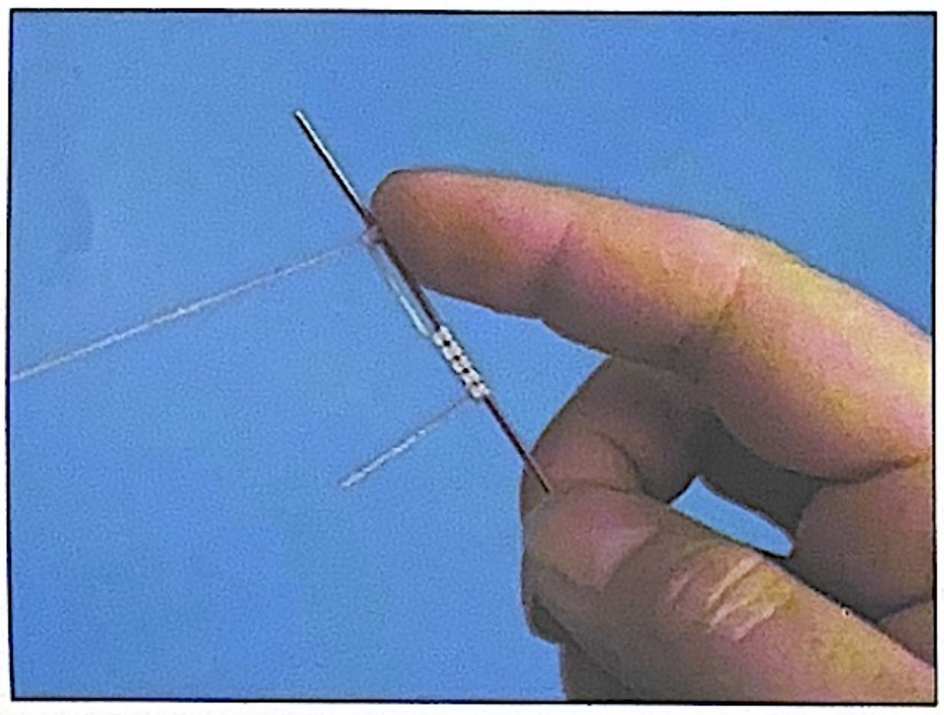
Pull the thread down the needle toward the other stitch and snug them together.

Step 2 of the double stitch is complete. This is the only stitch in tatting. When making a double stitch, slide each step over to the other stitches.

Picot



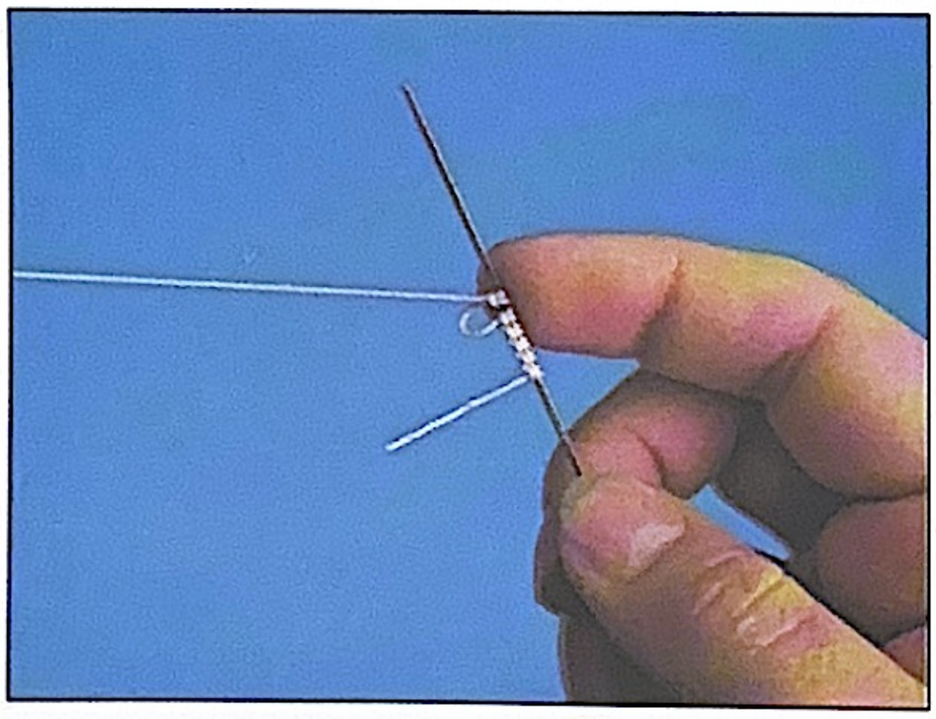
One double stitch made.



Put 4 more double stitches (ds) on the needle for a total of 5ds.

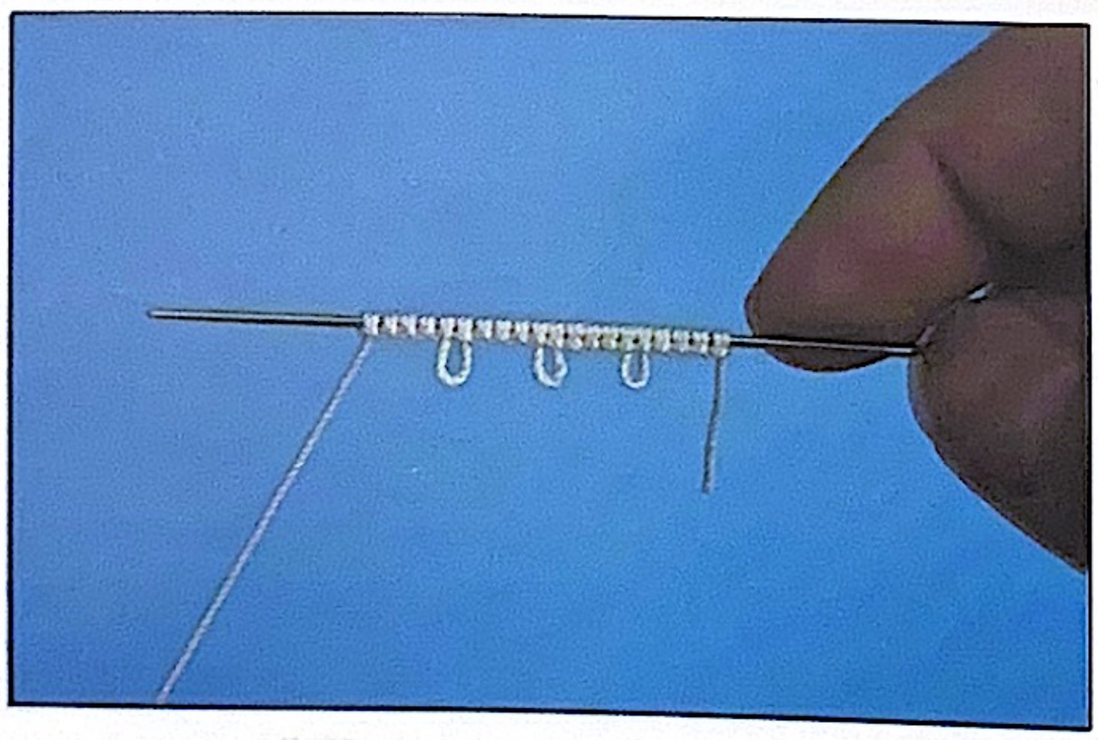
Repeat step 1 of the double stitch and put it on the needle. Stop the thread about 1/2" from the last double stitch, using the right index finger to hold it. Repeat step 2 of the double stitch and slide it over to step 1. The threads should look like the photograph.

Note: *You are leaving a space between the double stitches. The space makes a picot.*



Slide the double stitch over to all the other stitches.

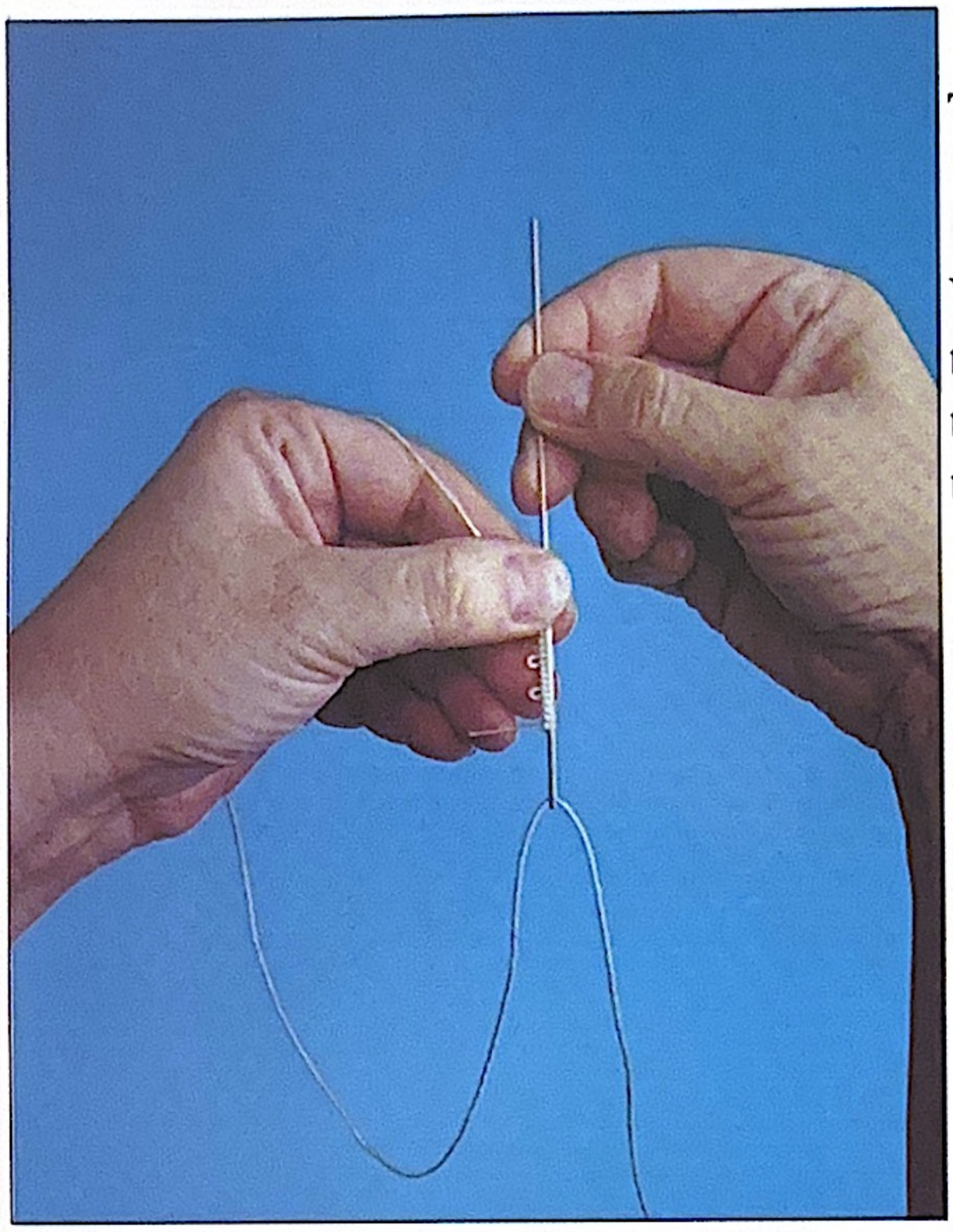
There are now 5ds, p, 1ds on the needle.



Put 4 more ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds on the needle.

Note: *A picot is a loop between the double stitches. Count the double stitch on each side of a picot when you are working a pattern.*

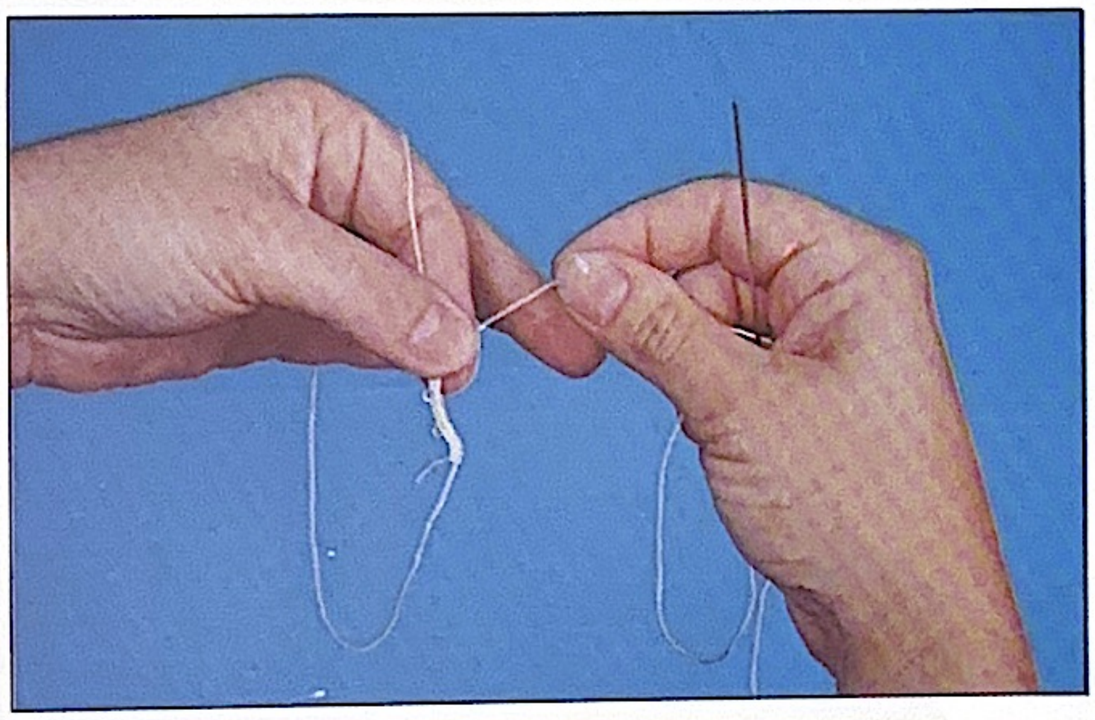
Making a Ring



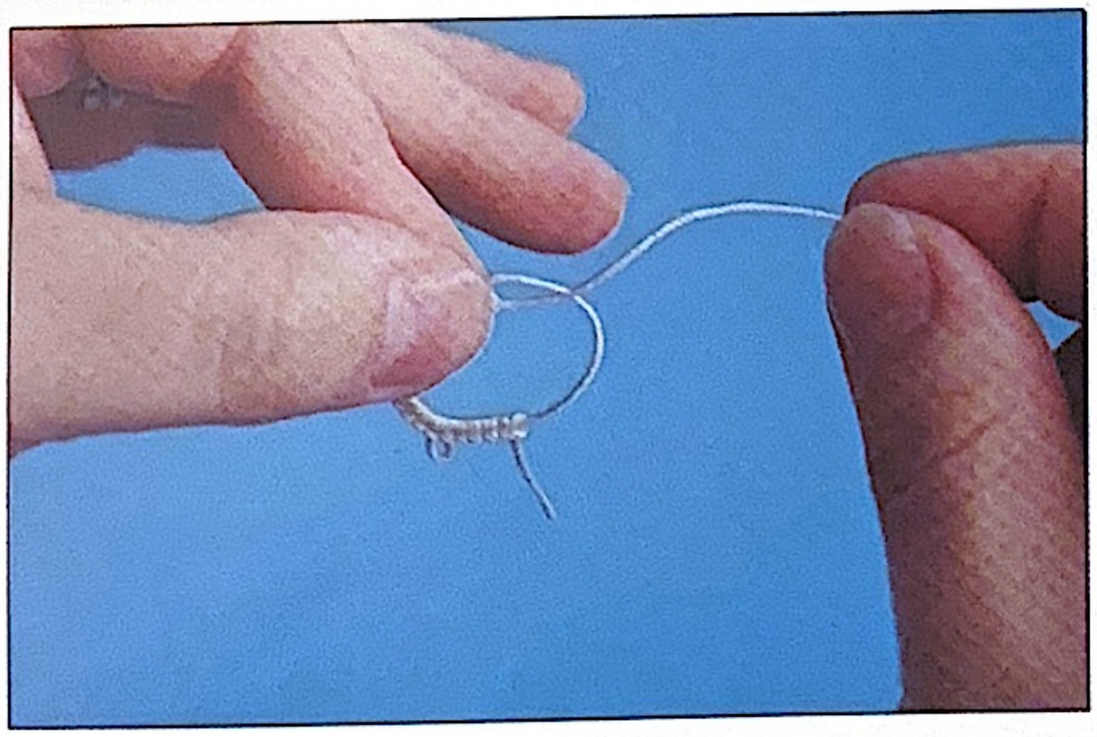
To make a ring (R):

With your right fingers, hold the needle. Put the thumb and index finger of your left hand on the stitches. Slide the stitches toward the eye of the needle.

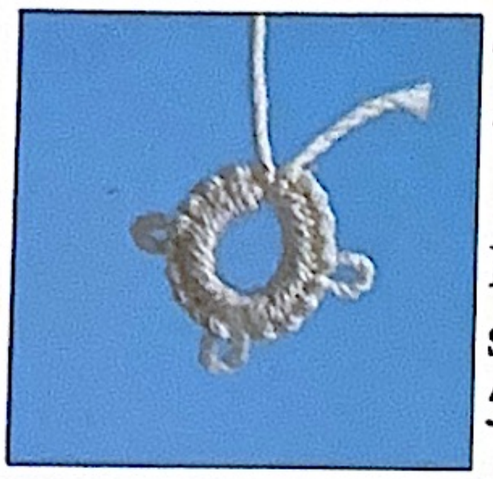
Gently slide the stitches off the eye of the needle. Do not let go of the double stitches.



Keep sliding the double stitches down the thread.



Keep pulling, letting the ring form between your fingers.



The ring is now closed (Cl). The tighter the thread is pulled the smaller the ring will be, but pull only the needle thread, not the short tail.

If a ring does not form and the stitches look like a half moon, you did not start correctly. Start over with another 40" length of thread. Refer to page 5 and be sure to start on the longer end of the thread.

There are 4 common ways a pattern will read for the ring just made.

R 5ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds Cl.

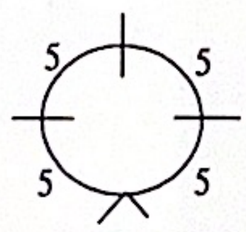
Or

R 5-5-5-5 Cl.

Or

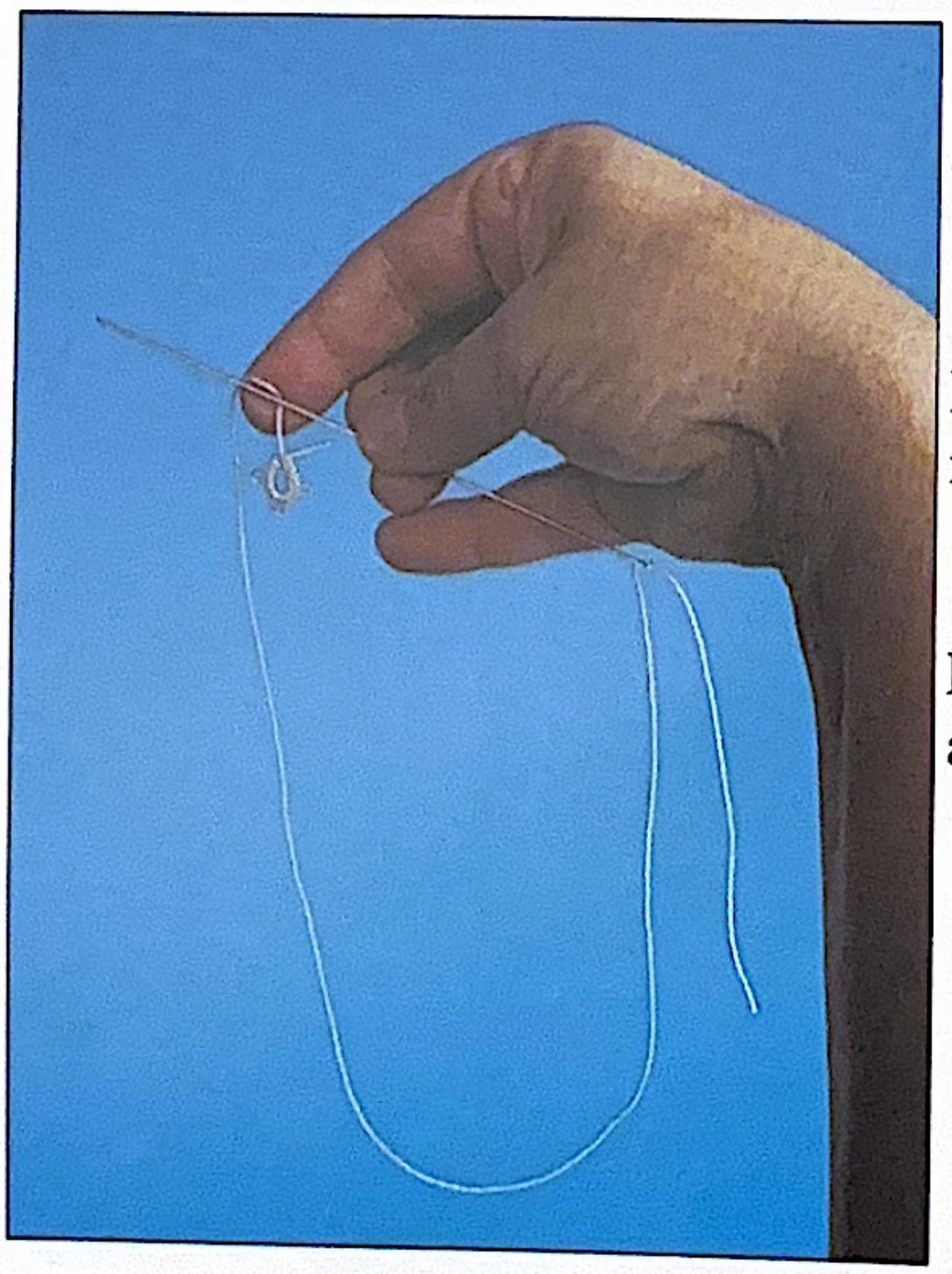
R 5ds, 3ps Sep. by 5 ds, 5ds Cl.

Or



Definitions of Abbreviations:

R...Ring ds...Double Stitch Cl....Close p or (-)....Picot

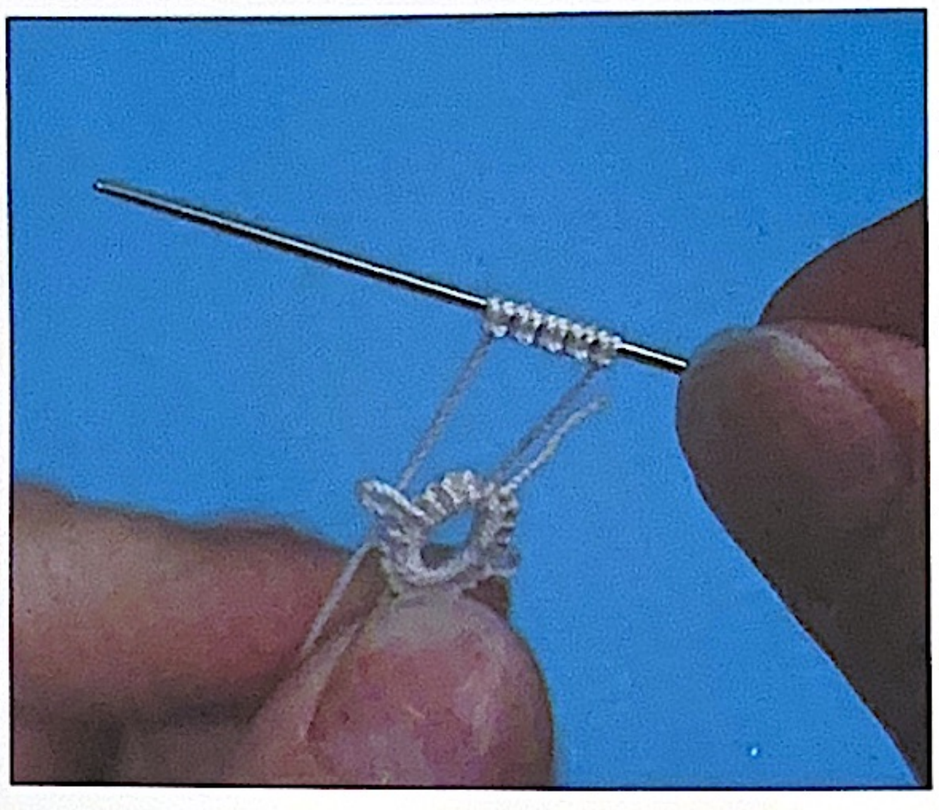


To start another ring:

Hang the ring down, and hold the thread with your index finger.

Leave approximately 1/2" of thread between the ring and your finger.

Joining

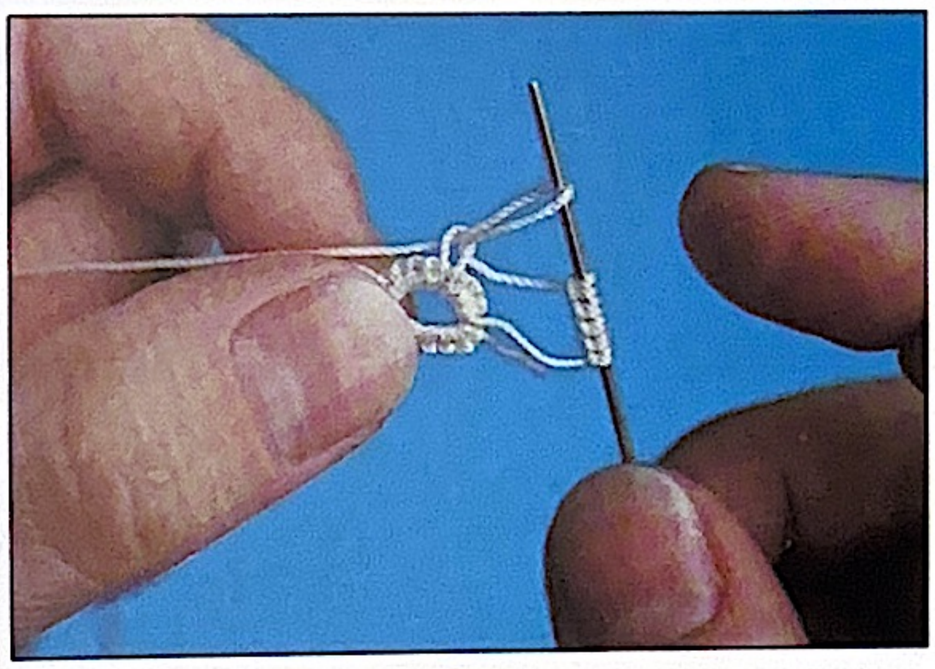


Put 5 double stitches on the needle.

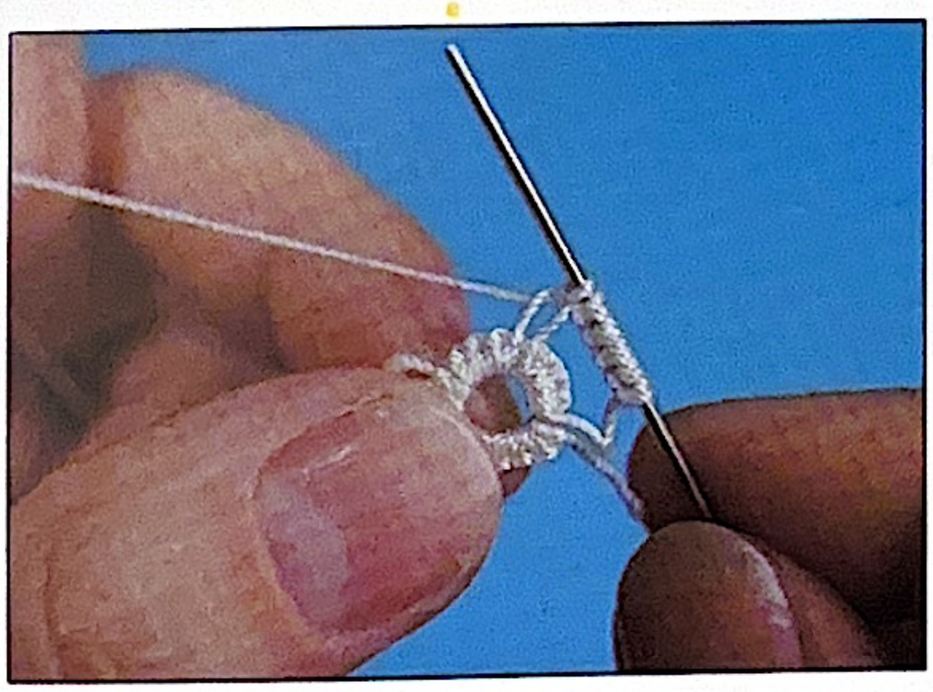
To join (+), grasp the thread leaving the last double stitch on the needle. Place it behind the last picot made of the last ring.

Pull the thread up through the picot using the tip of the tatting needle (or a crochet hook).

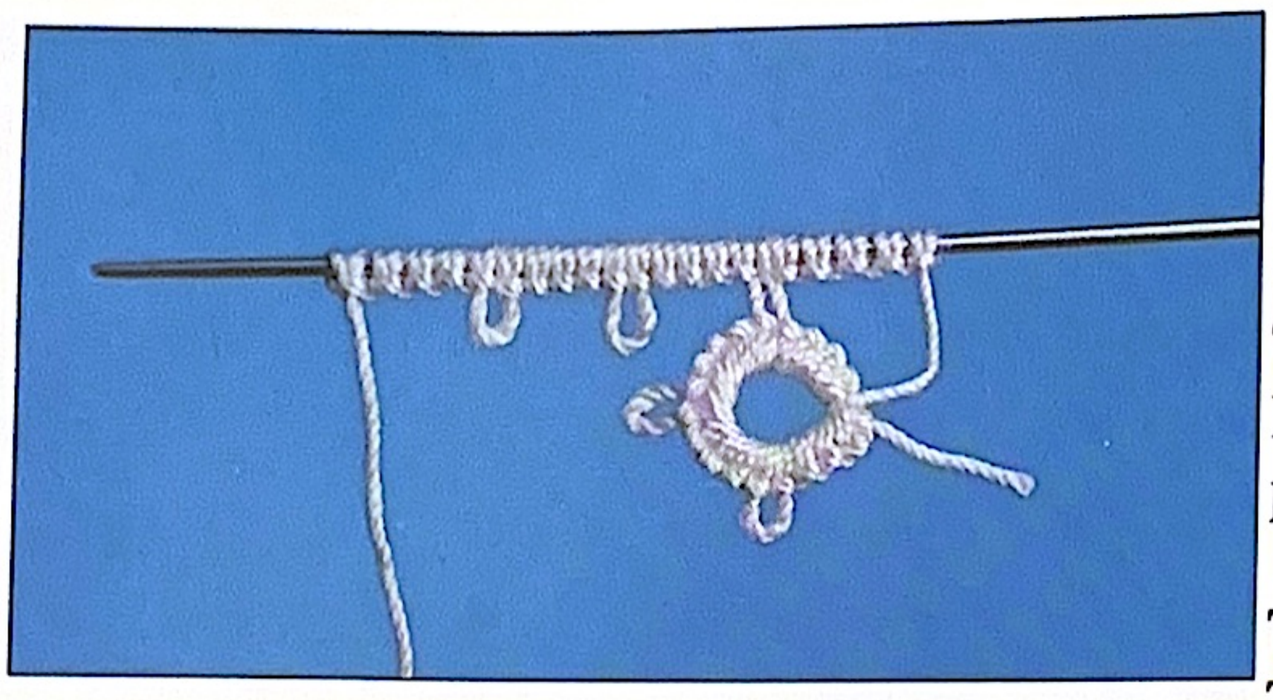
Note: *I did not put the picot on the needle; I pulled the thread up through the picot.*



Put the thread on the needle as shown.



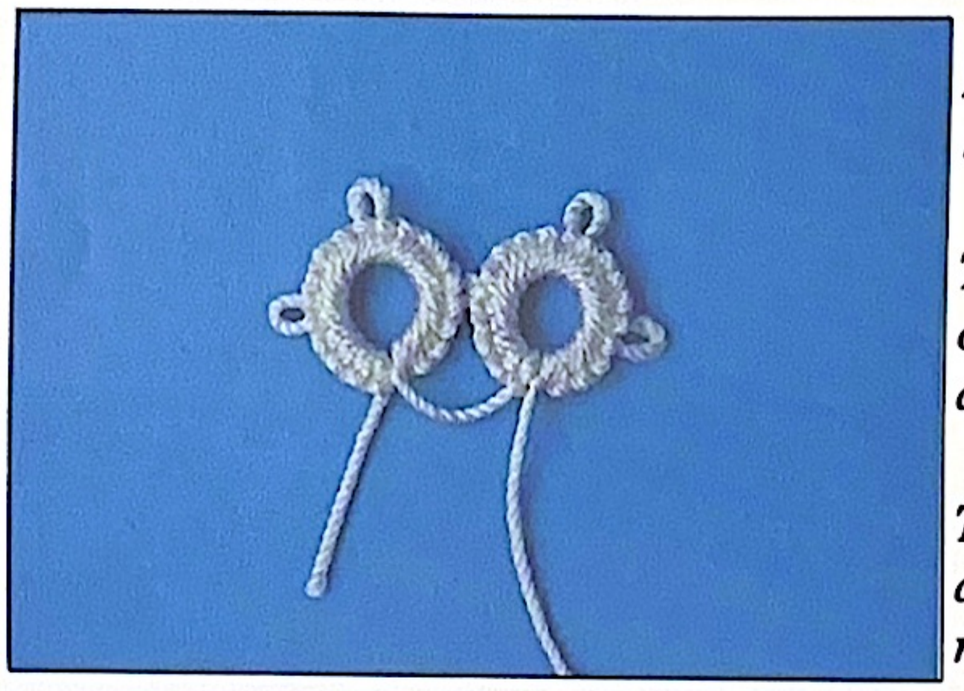
Pull the thread tight so the picot is up against the needle. **This does not count** as part of the double stitch. It is a join rather than a stitch.



Next, put 5ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds, on the needle. Close (Cl) the ring by sliding the stitches off the needle's threaded eye.

The pattern for the ring just made reads R 5ds, +(to last p of Prev R) 5ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds Cl.

Two rings are now joined side by side. The join shares the same picot.



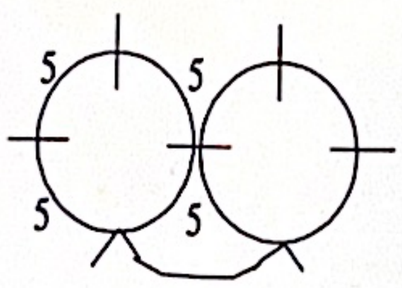
Note: *A join is always done this way. Even when working in rounds or rows.*

Tip: *To make a traditional ("normal" size) picot, leave 1/2" of space between the halves of the double stitches. This creates a picot that is 1/4" long.*

Tip: *Count the double stitches, picots and joins before making a ring. To correct mistakes, back the double stitches off the needle the same way they were put on.*

The pattern for the two rings just made:

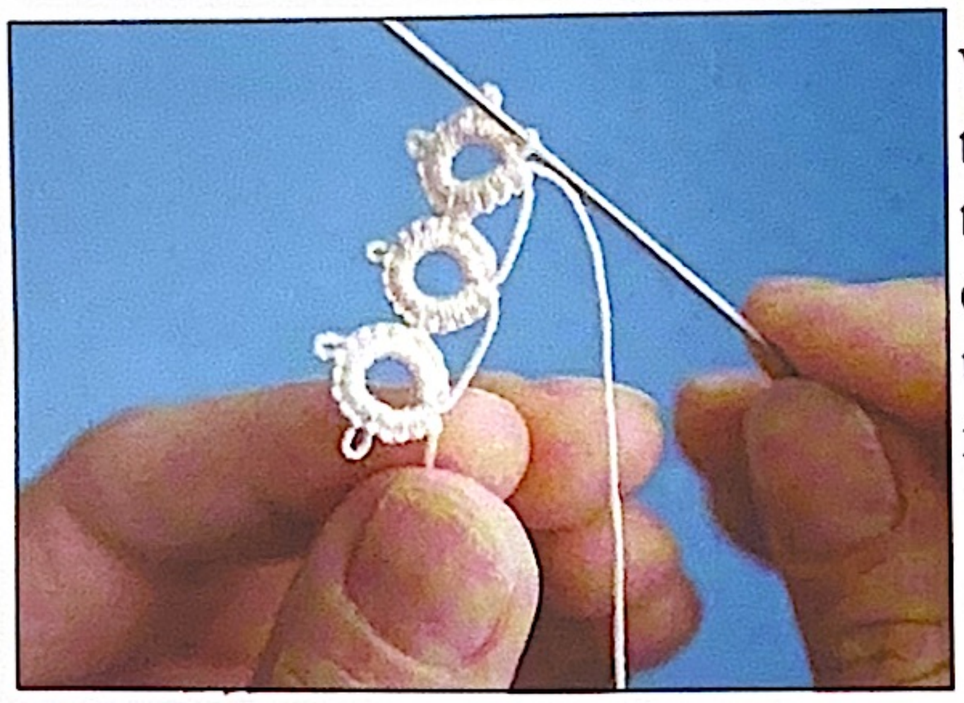
R 5-5-5-5 Cl. Leave 1/2" space.
R 5 +(to last p of Prev R) 5-5-5 Cl.
Or
R 5ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds Cl. Leave 1/2" space.
R 5ds, J(to last p of Prev R) 5ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds Cl.
Or
R 5ds, 3ps Sep by 5ds, 5ds Cl. Leave 1/2" space.
R 5ds, +(to last p of Prev. R) 2ps Sep by 5 ds, ds Cl
Or



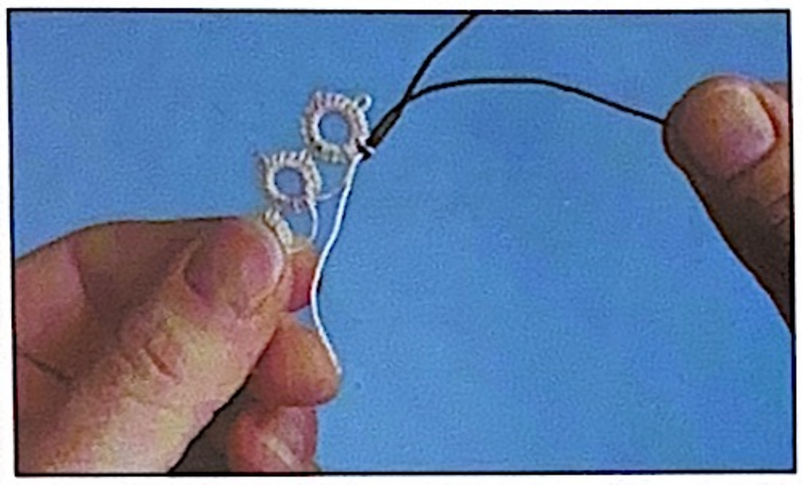
Ring and thread tatting is the method you have just learned. Working with thread that is separate from the ball is essential with this technique. Whenever there are rings and thread spacing in a pattern, or when a pattern calls for one shuttle, you ALWAYS work with a single piece of thread CUT off the ball.

Practice tatting with longer and longer threads cut from a ball until you can comfortably cut and use a five-yard length.

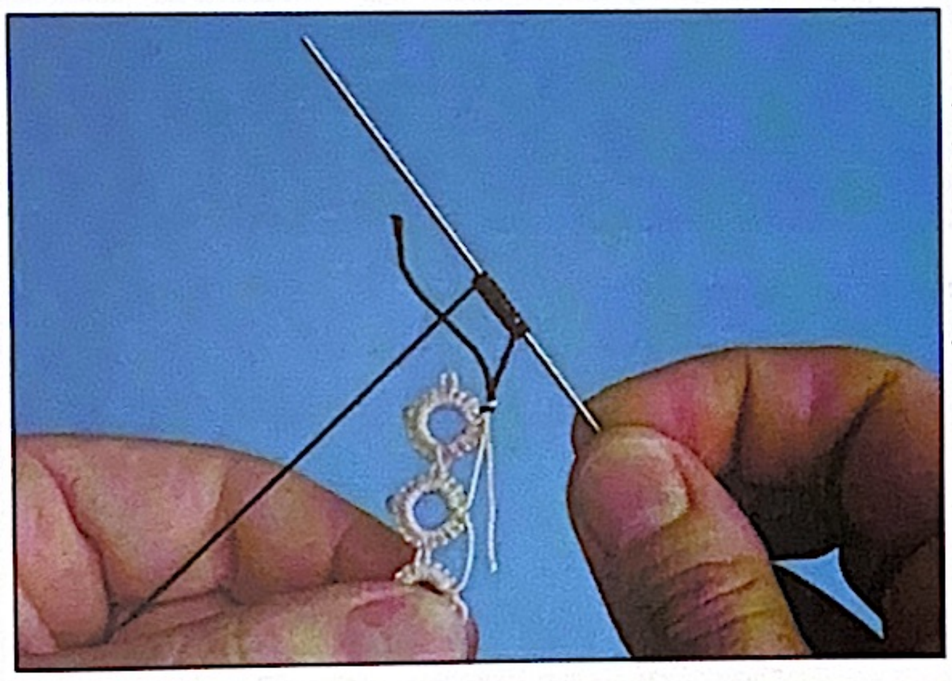
Adding More Thread & Hiding the Tails



When you run out of thread, cut another piece of thread off the ball. Two to five yards can be used at a time. Thread the needle, slide the needle into the last double stitch made, pull the needle and thread through. Keep pulling until you get to the end, leaving about a 3" tail.

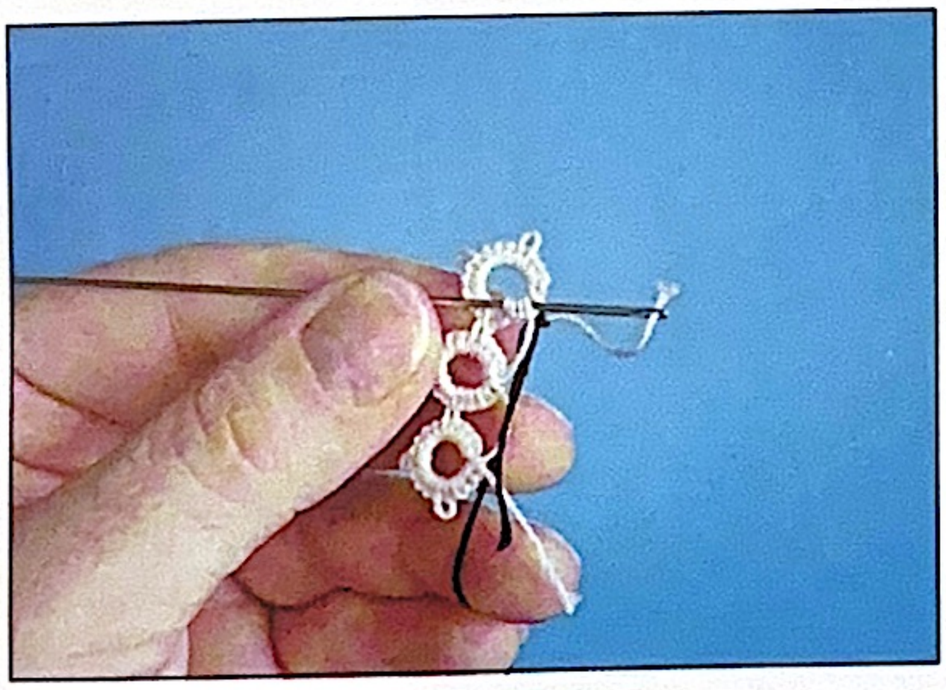


Tie a knot close to the double stitch.



Leave a thread spacing and start tatting.

***Note:** I have used a different color thread so you can see the knot.*



To hide the loose end, thread it into the eye of the tatting needle. Slide the needle between two to four of the double stitches; pull it through. If you have trouble using the tatting needle try a cross stitch or a small tapestry needle.

***Tip:** Before trimming the thread ends, put a drop of fabric glue on the knot. When dry, cut off excess thread.*

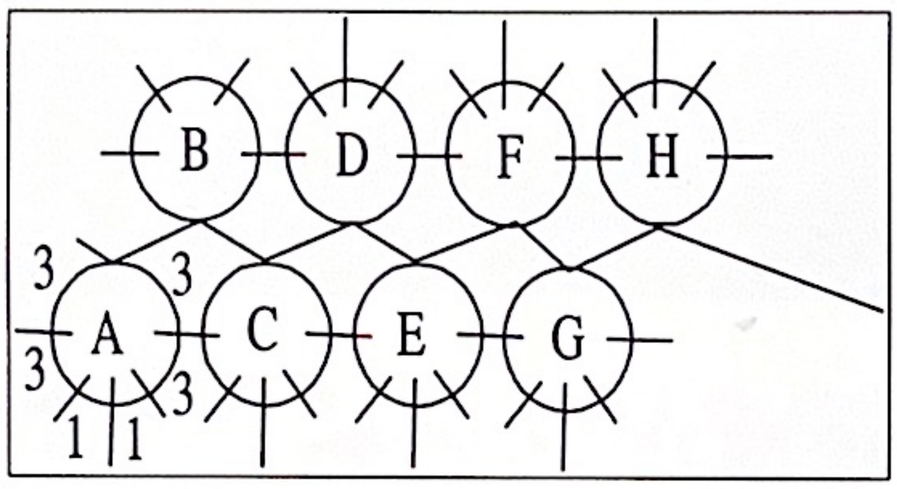
Bookmark or Towel

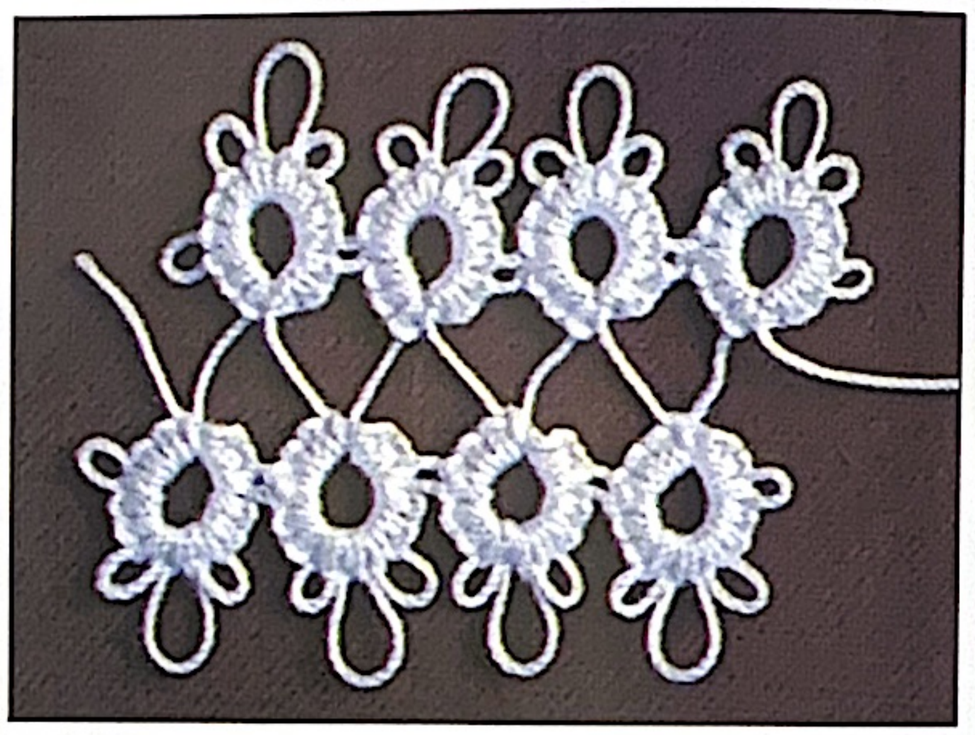
Cut the thread off the ball for this pattern. You can use up to 5 yards of thread at one time. If you are uncomfortable using that much at once, use 2 to 2-1/2 yards.

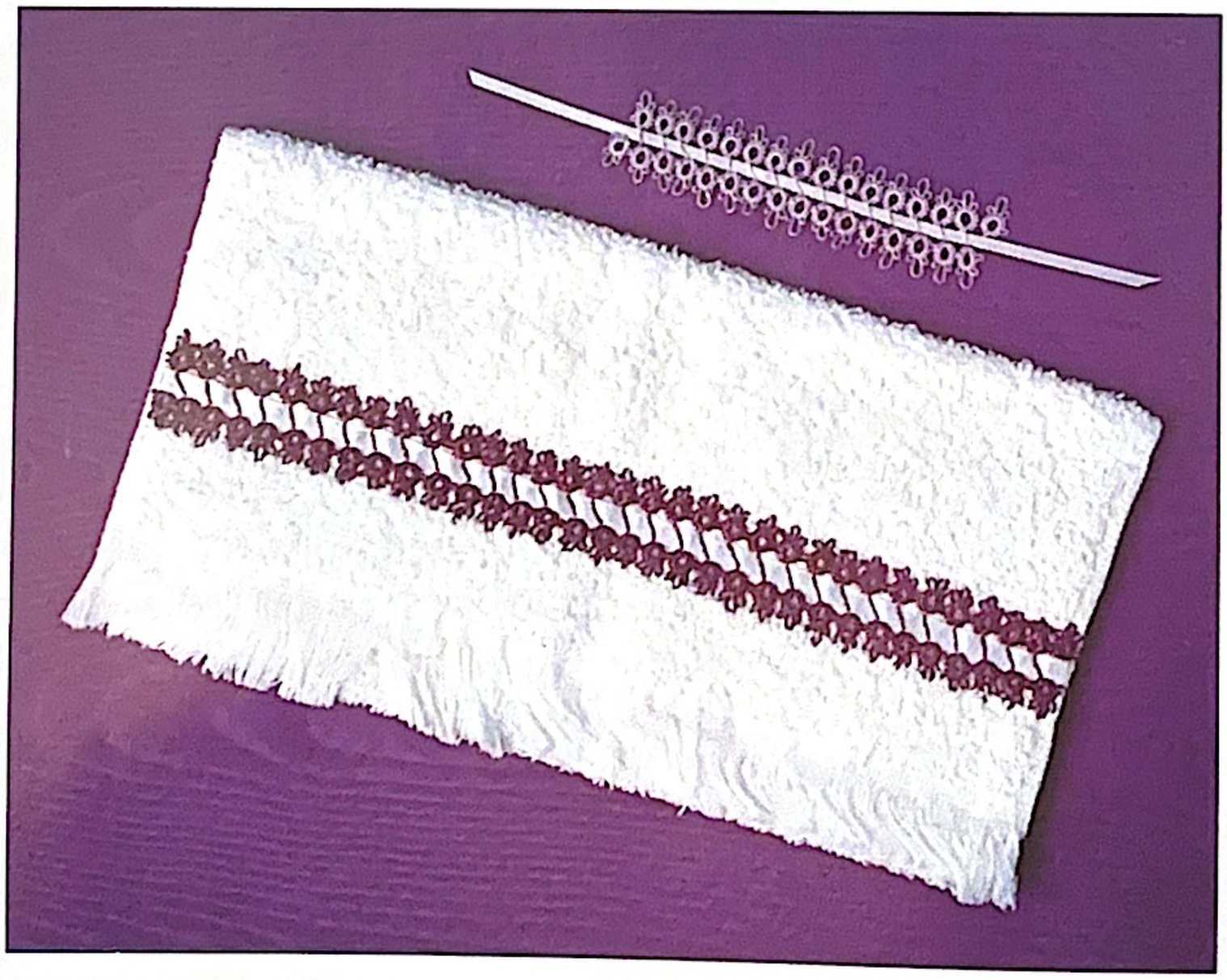
A. R 3-3-1, Lp, 1-3-3 Cl. Leave 1/4" space.
B. R 3-3-1, Lp, 1-3-3 Cl. Leave 1/4" space.
C. R 3 +(to last p of 1st ring A) 3-1, Lp, 1-3-3 Cl. Leave 1/4" space.
D. R 3 +(to last p of 2nd ring B) 3-1, Lp, 1-3-3 Cl. Leave 1/4" space.
E. R 3 +(to last p of 3rd ring C) 3-1, Lp, 1-3-3 Cl. Leave 1/4" space.
F. R 3 +(to last p of 4th ring D) 3-1, Lp, 1-3-3 Cl. Leave 1/4" space.
G. R 3 +(to last p of 5th ring E) 3-1, Lp, 1-3-3 Cl. Leave 1/4" space.
H. R 3 +(to last p of 6th ring F) 3-1, Lp, 1-3-3 Cl. Leave 1/4" space.

Continue in the same manner for desired length.

Tie and cut.







The tatting on the towel is made using Kreinik metallic braid Size 8 and the #5-0 tatting needle. The violet bookmark is made using Cordonnet Size 40 and the #7-fine tatting needle.

Needles and Threads —Finding the Right Size

For needle tatting, first select a thread or yarn (see page 4 for a comparison of threads). Then, choose the needle with the smallest eye that will hold the thread without shredding it. The larger (or higher) the number of the thread or needle, the smaller its size. Here are some suggestions:

Thread-Tatting Needles

Needle #7-Fine (Smallest)
Tatting Thread Sizes 80, 70
Crochet Thread Sizes 60, 50, 40, 30, 20
Pearl Cotton Sizes 12, 8
DMC Metallic Thread

Needle #5-0 (Medium)
Crochet Thread Sizes 20, 10
Pearl Cotton Sizes 8, 5
Bedspread Weight

Needle #3-0 (Largest)
DMC Cebelia Size 5
Pearl Cotton Size 3
Smaller Sport Weight Yarn

You will find thread in stores usually referred to as crochet cotton suitable for tatting.

Yarn-Tatting Needles

Needle #2-0 (Smallest YARN)
Most 100% Cottons

Needle #1-0 (Medium YARN)
Worsted Weight

Needle #0-0 (Large YARN)
Chunky Weight

It is best to use the yarn closest to needle size.

Hanky Edging

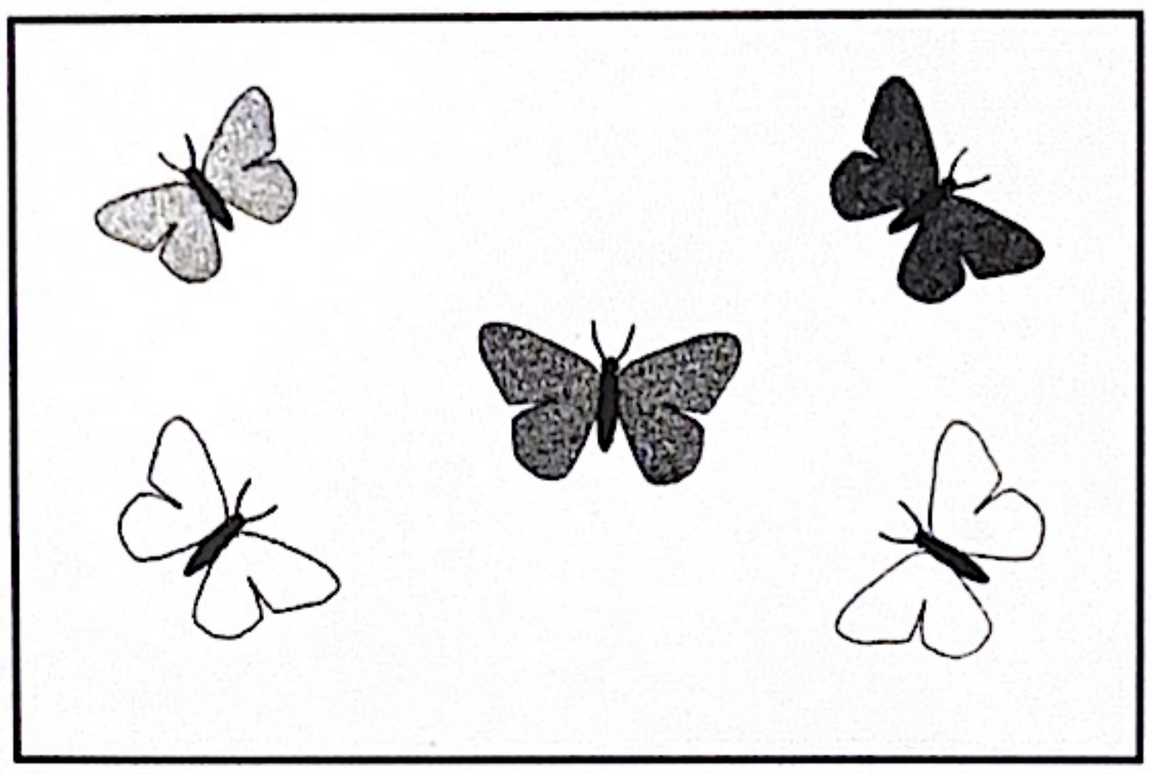
Materials
DMC Pearl Cotton Size 8 one ball
#5-0 Tatting Needle

For this pattern the thread will be cut off the ball.
After each ring leave 1/4" space.

Lr 4-3-2-2-3-4 Cl Rw.
R 4 +(to hole on hanky) 4 Cl.
*Lr 4 +(to last picot of Prev Lr) 3-2-2-3-4 Cl Rw.
R 4 +(Skip 3 holes and join in the 4th) 4 Cl. *
Repeat from * to * around, except for the corners follow the pattern below. There will be times when you will have to skip 2 holes to be able to work in the corner hole.
When you tat the last large ring, join to the first large ring made. On the last ring be sure and leave 1/4" space and join to the base of the first Lr made. Tie and Cut.

Corner Hole
R 4 +(to corner hole of hanky) 4 Cl Rw.
Lr 4 +(to last picot of Prev. Lr) 3-2-2-3-4 Cl.
Lr 4 +(to last picot of Prev. Lr) 3-2-2-3-4 Cl Rw.
R 4 +(to same corner hole of hanky) 4 Cl Rw.

B



Large Butterfly

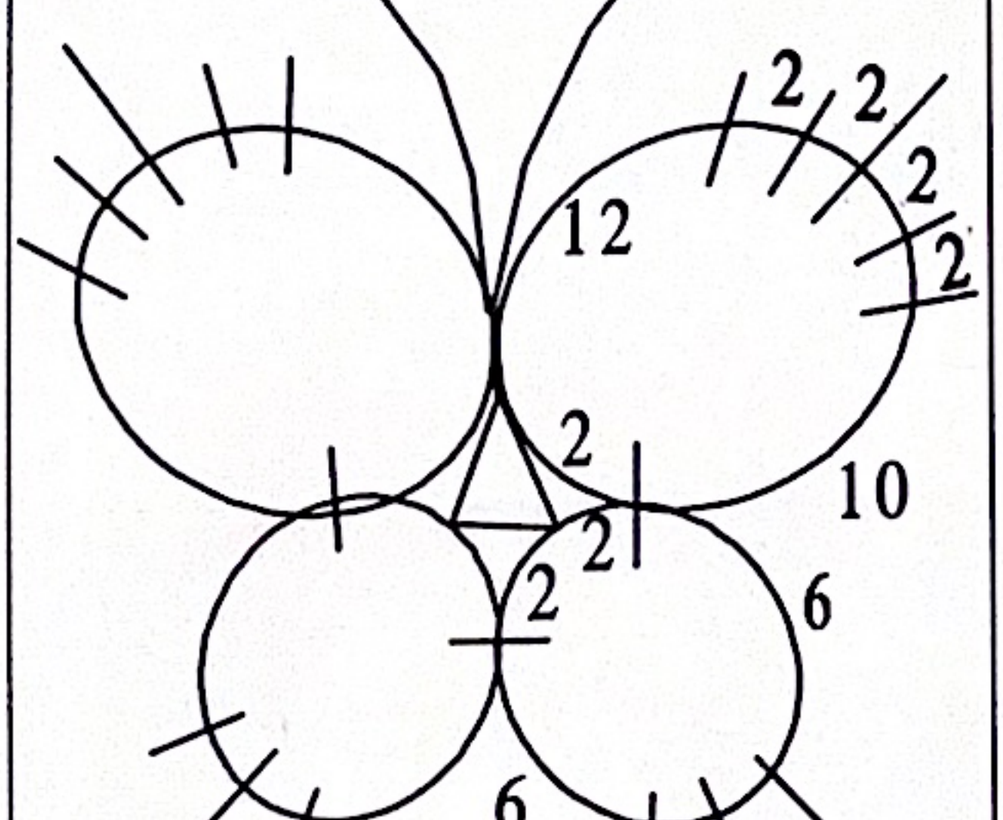
Materials

Use thread of choice and appropriate size needle.

Work off the ball, using instructions beginning on page 15. As you begin, leave at least a 2" tail for the antenna. Tat rings side by side, without a space between them. Note that you will not reverse the work after the rings; tie a knot to secure each one.

R 12-2-2, Lp, 2-2-10, Sp, 2 Cl.
R 2 +(to last picot of Prev ring) 6-2, Lp, 2-6, Sp, 2 Cl.
R 2 +(to last picot of Prev ring) 6-2, Lp, 2-6, Sp, 2 Cl.
R 2 +(to last picot of Prev ring) 10-2-2, Lp, 2-2-12 Cl.

To shape the center of the butterfly: Use the tatting needle to weave in and out between rings; pull the center together and knot the ends of the weaving thread. Leaving a 2" tail, cut and tie a knot at the ends of the antennae.



From left to right: DMC Cordonnet Size 20, DMC Cebelia Size 5, and Cordonnet Size 80.

Note Card

By Carolyn R. Dunn
Royal Needle Arts

Materials

Assorted colors of DMC Size 80 tatting thread
7 fine tatting needle
Note card or paper
Toothpick, white glue, colored pencils

Flowers

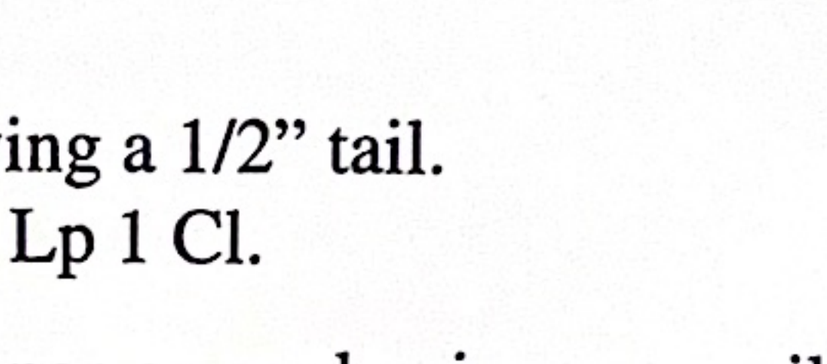
Cut thread 1/2 yard long.
*R 1-1-1-1-1-1 Cl. Leave 1/4" space.
R 1-1-1-1-1 Cl. Leave 1/4" space *.
Repeat from * to *, making as many rings of that color you wish.
Repeat pattern in different colors for different flowers.

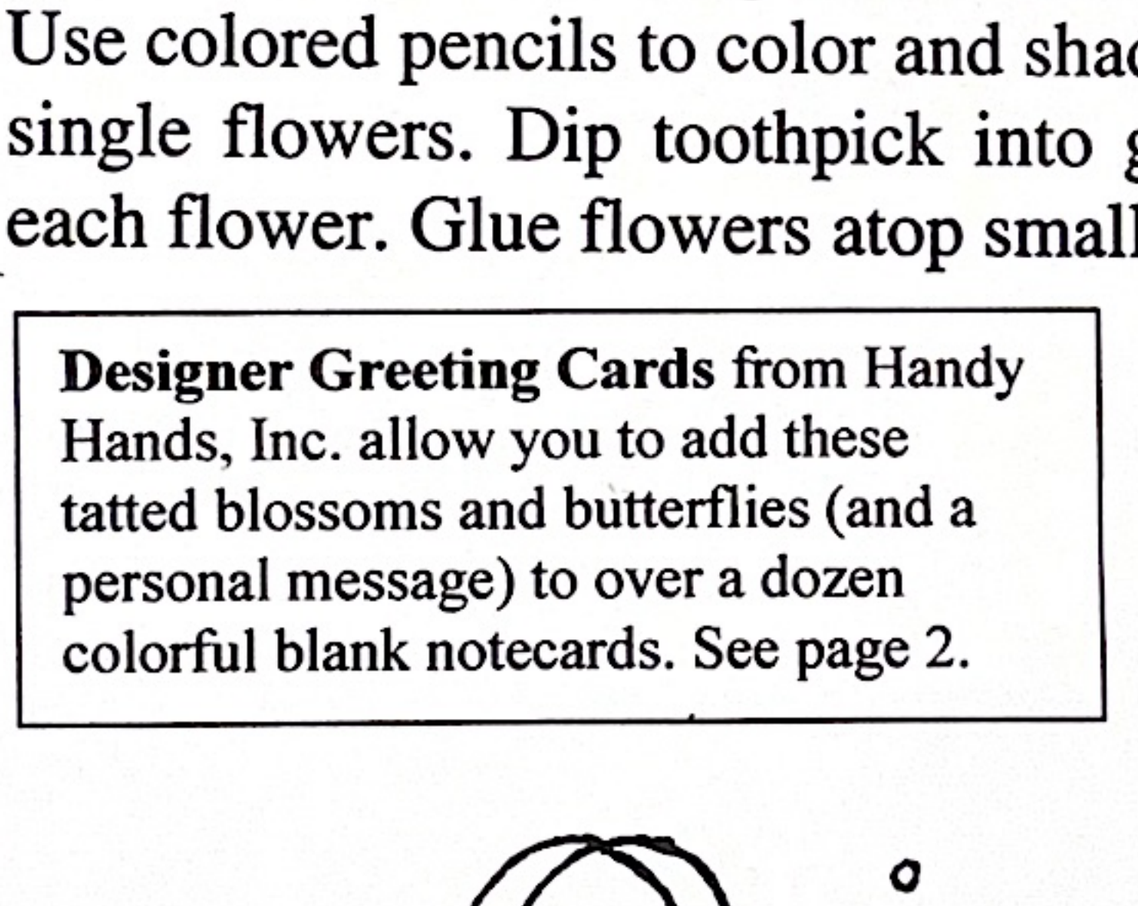
Small Butterfly

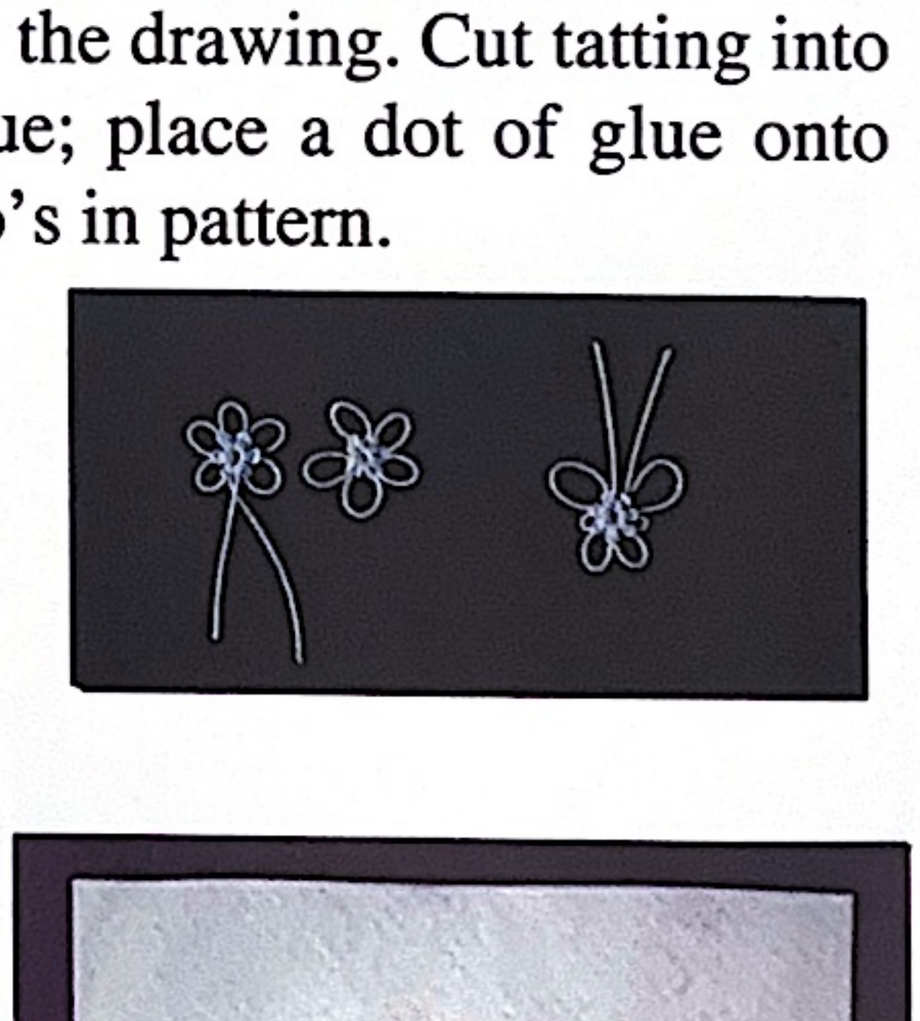
Design by Barbara Foster
Cut thread 1/2 yard long. Begin by leaving a 1/2" tail.
R 1, Lp, 1, Sp, 1, p, 1, p, 1, Sp, 1, Lp 1 Cl.

To finish, trace drawing below onto paper or card using a pencil. Use colored pencils to color and shade the drawing. Cut tatting into single flowers. Dip toothpick into glue; place a dot of glue onto each flower. Glue flowers atop small o's in pattern.

Designer Greeting Cards from Handy Hands, Inc. allow you to add these tatted blossoms and butterflies (and a personal message) to over a dozen colorful blank notecards. See page 2.



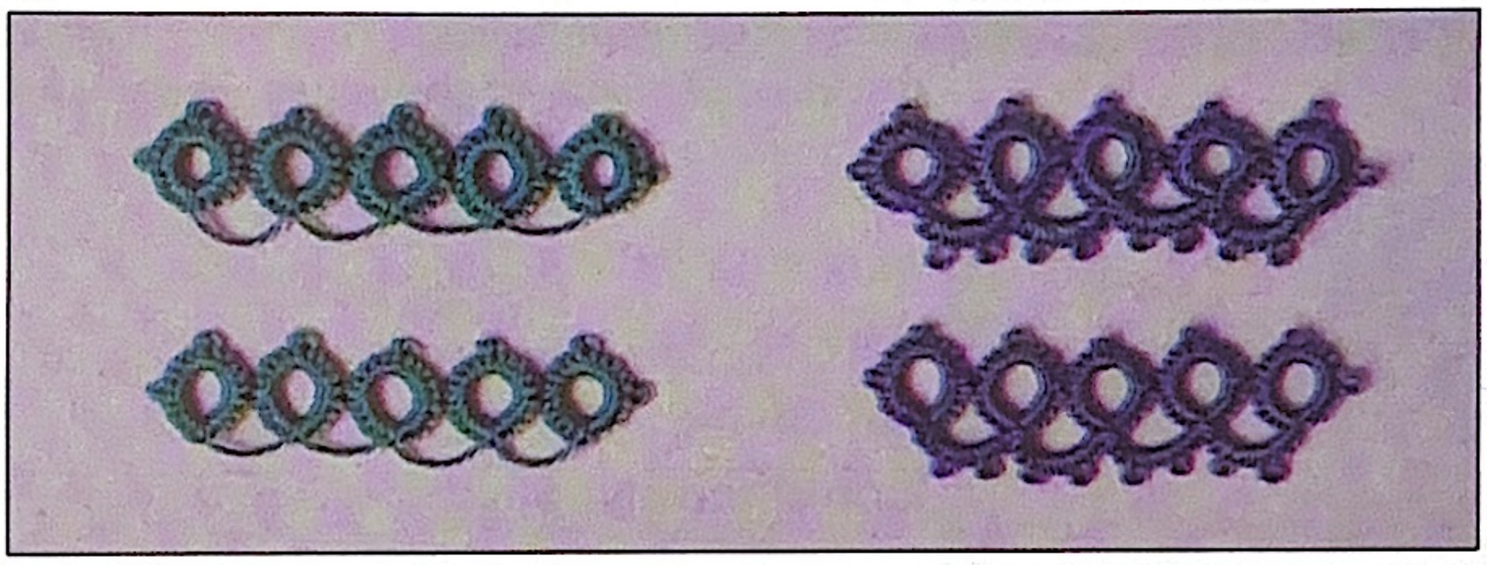




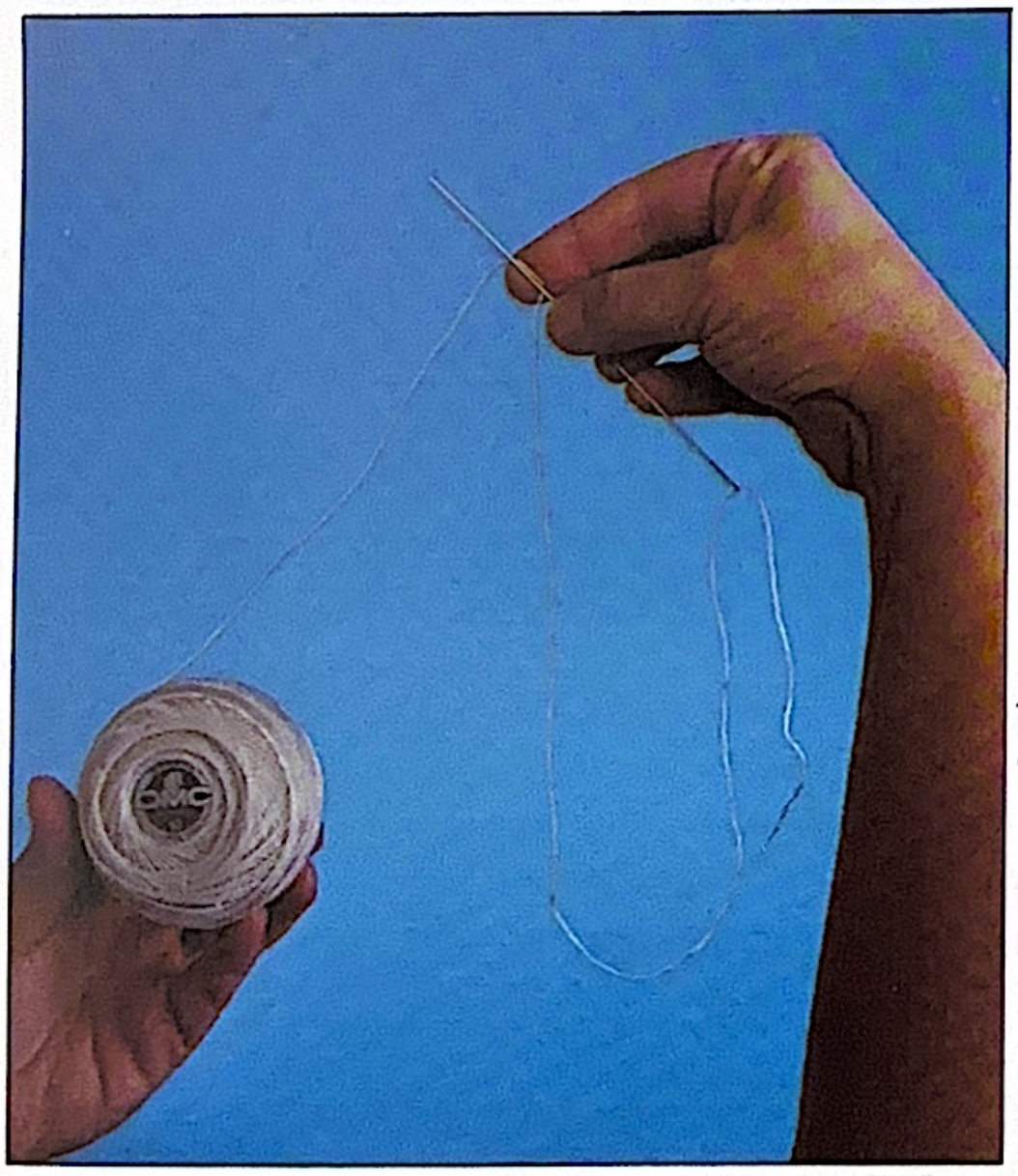
Ring and Chain Method ™
Working off the Ball

In the late 1880's tatters began working with thread still attached to the ball. Doing so opened up the design possibilities because it allowed them (and you) to make chains without a thread space. Below are examples of Ring and Thread Method™ and Ring and Chain Method™. Note that each technique is illustrated twice. All four samples are worked in DMC Pearl Cotton #8, but the top left and right are tatted with #5-0 needle and the lower examples are tatted with #7-fine.

Whenever thread spacing occurs in a design or pattern, or if the pattern refers to one shuttle, you must use the Ring and Thread Method™, cutting the thread from the ball. When chains are used between the rings or a pattern refers to two shuttles or shuttle and ball, you must use the Ring and Chain Method™, working "off" the ball. Before beginning Ring and Chain Method™, practice the note card (page D), edging (page 27) or bookmark (page 14) to develop your needle-tatting skills.



Ring and Thread Method™ *Ring and Chain Method™*

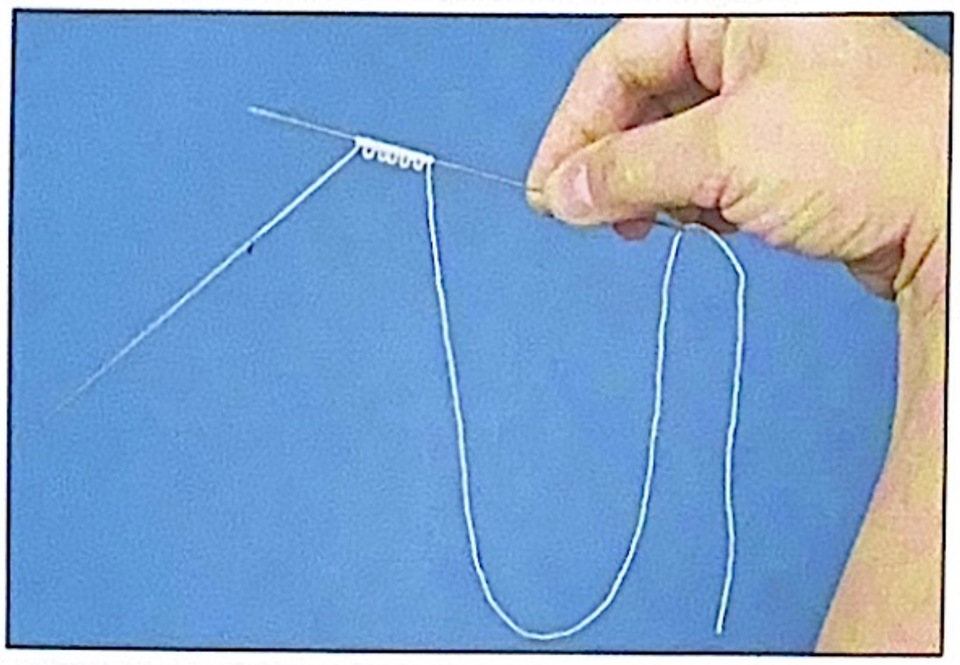


Working off the ball.

Put the ball of thread on the left and thread the needle leaving about a 4" tail. Pick up the thread about 20" from the eye of the needle and make the first double stitch.

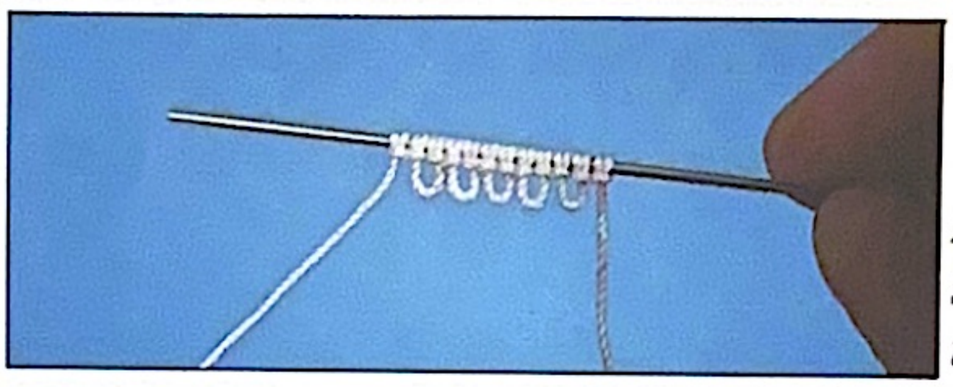
Note: *The double stitches are made using the thread from the ball.*

Making a Ring



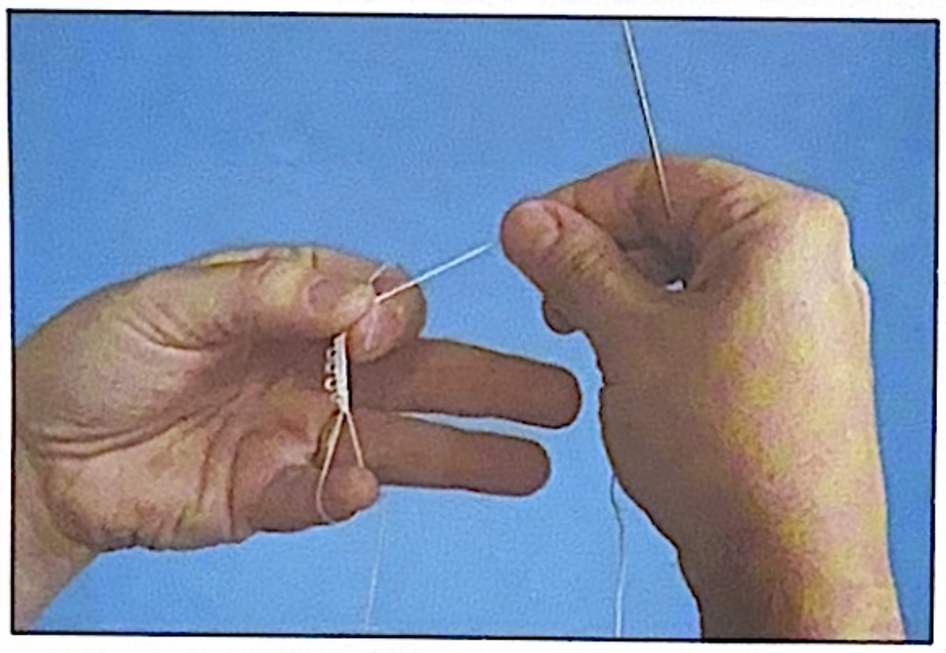
Using the thread from the ball side, tat

2ds, p, 2ds, p, 2ds, p, 2ds, p, 2ds, p, 2ds.

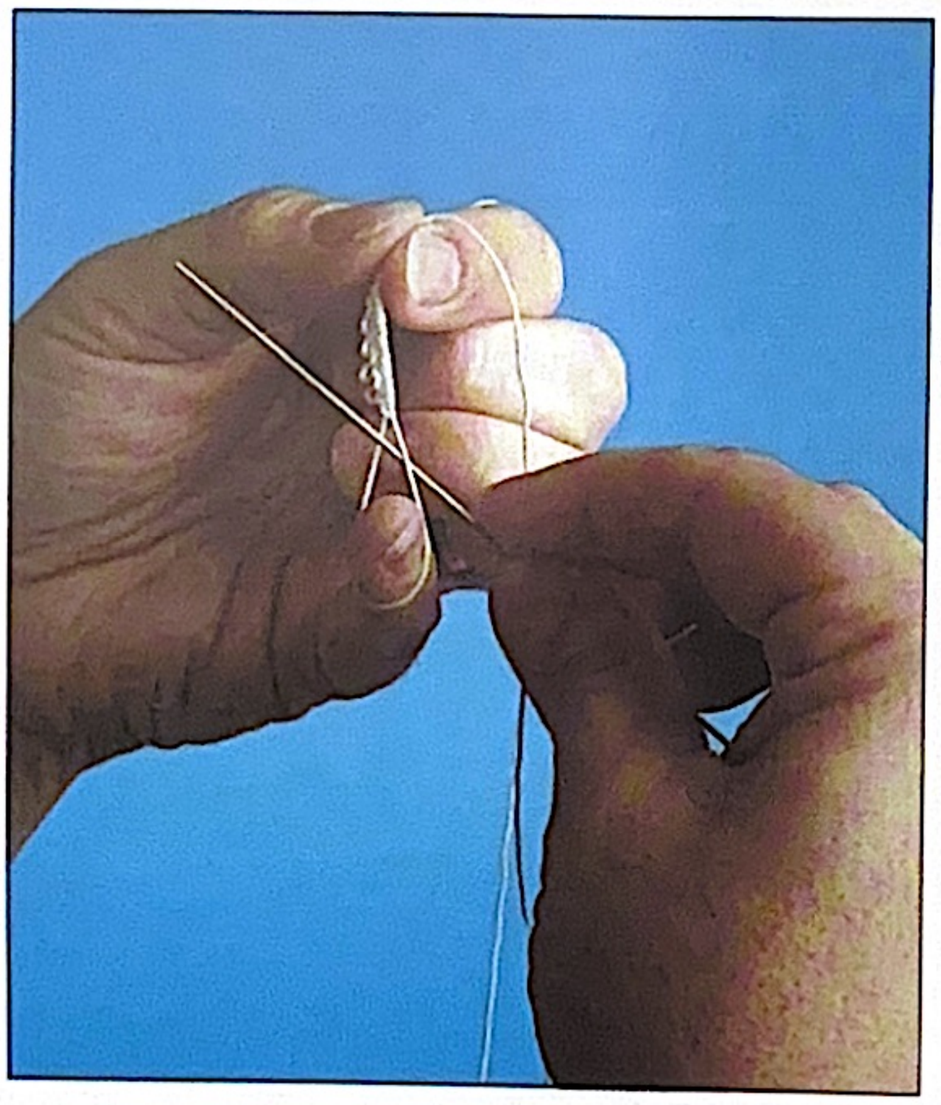


The needle should look like the photograph.

Note: *Remember that the loop hanging down is the picot. Be sure to count all the double stitches on the needle before taking them off the needle. To correct a mistake slip the double stitches and picots off the same way they were put on, then put the correct number of stitches on the needle.*



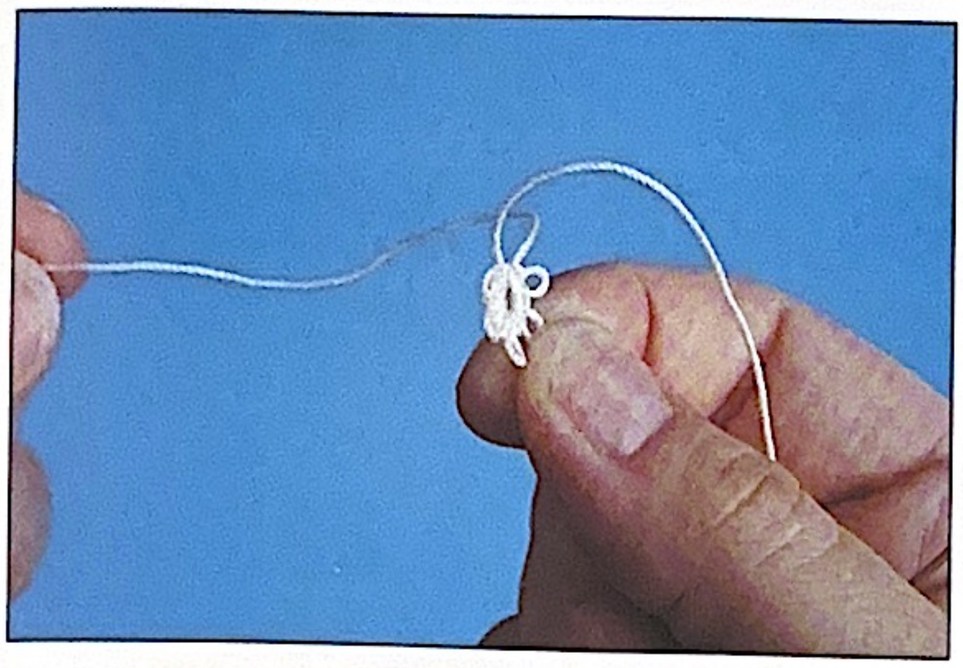
While holding the double stitches, slide them off the eye of the needle down the thread, leaving a little loop at the end. I use my little finger to hold that loop.



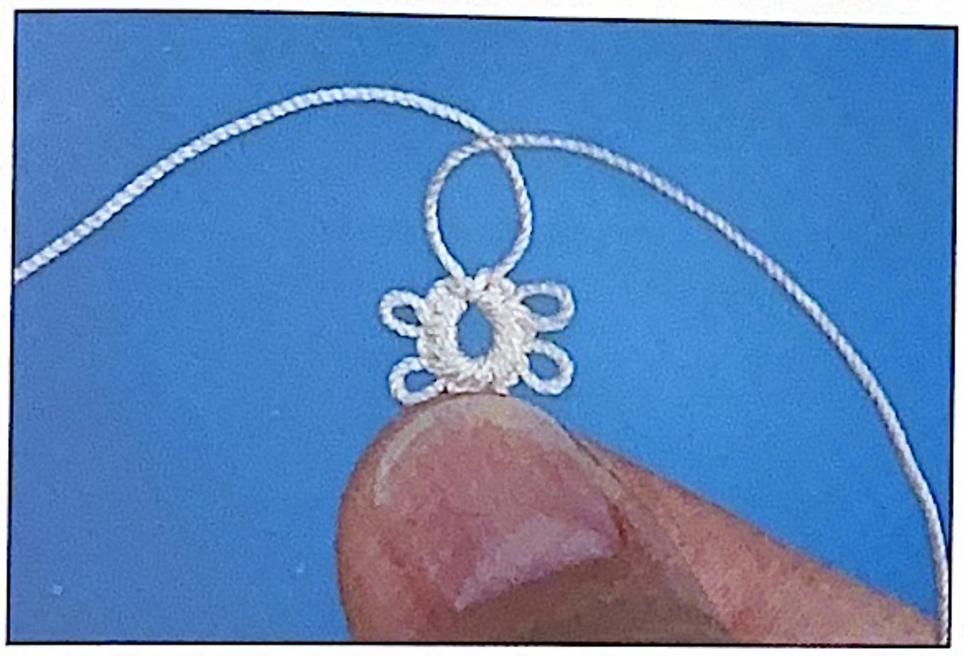
Bring the needle up through the loop. Keep pulling to make a ring.

A ring has been made.

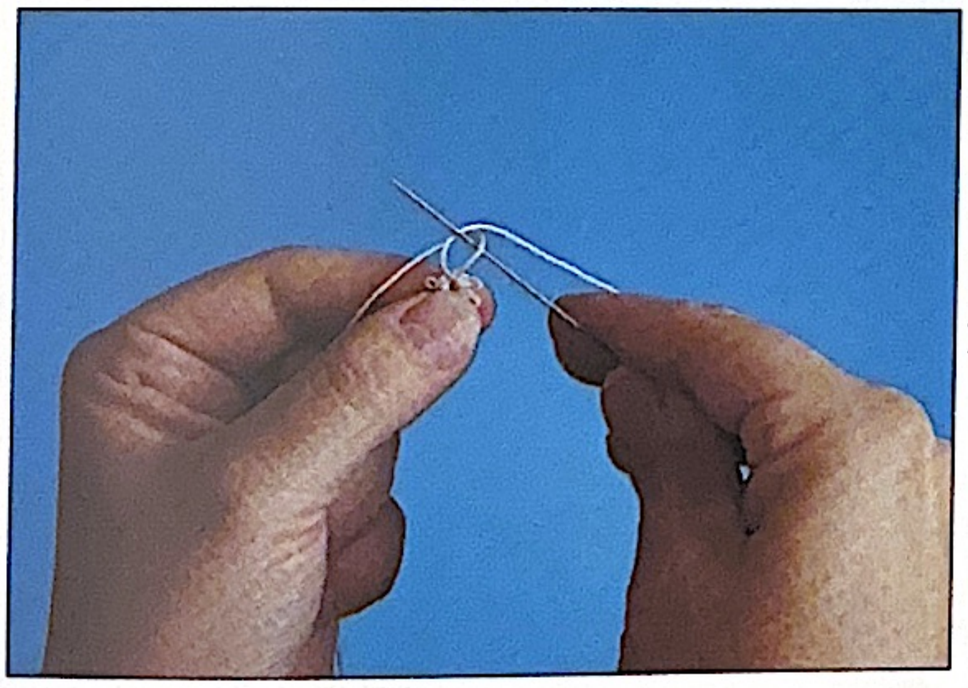
Note: *Bringing the needle up through the loop forms the ring.*



To Reverse (Rw) turn the ring over to the wrong side, right to left, as if you were turning a page in a book.



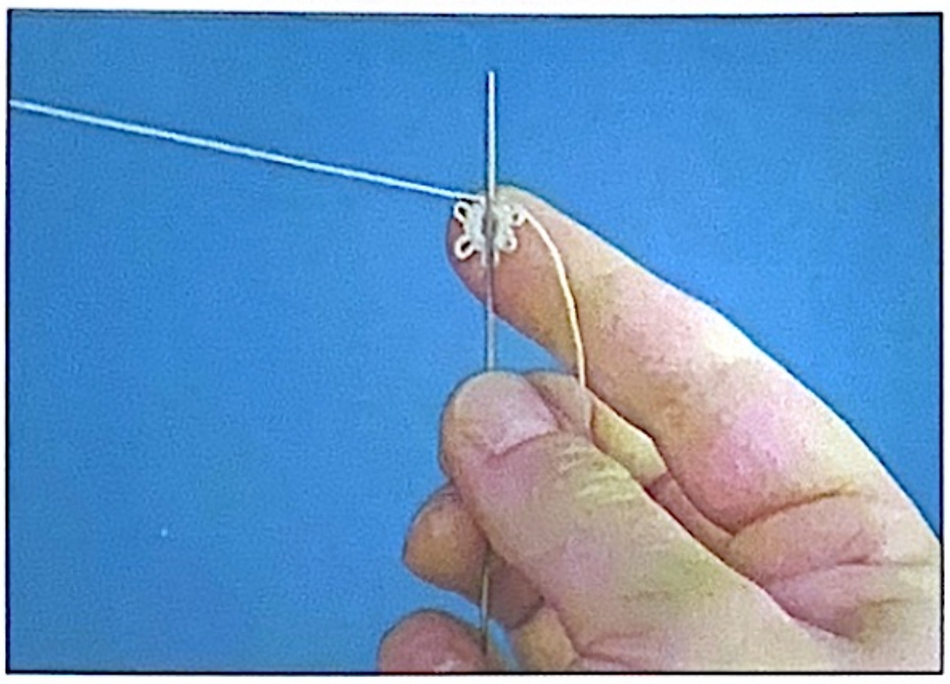
When the ring has been turned (reversed) the threads will cross and form a little tear drop.



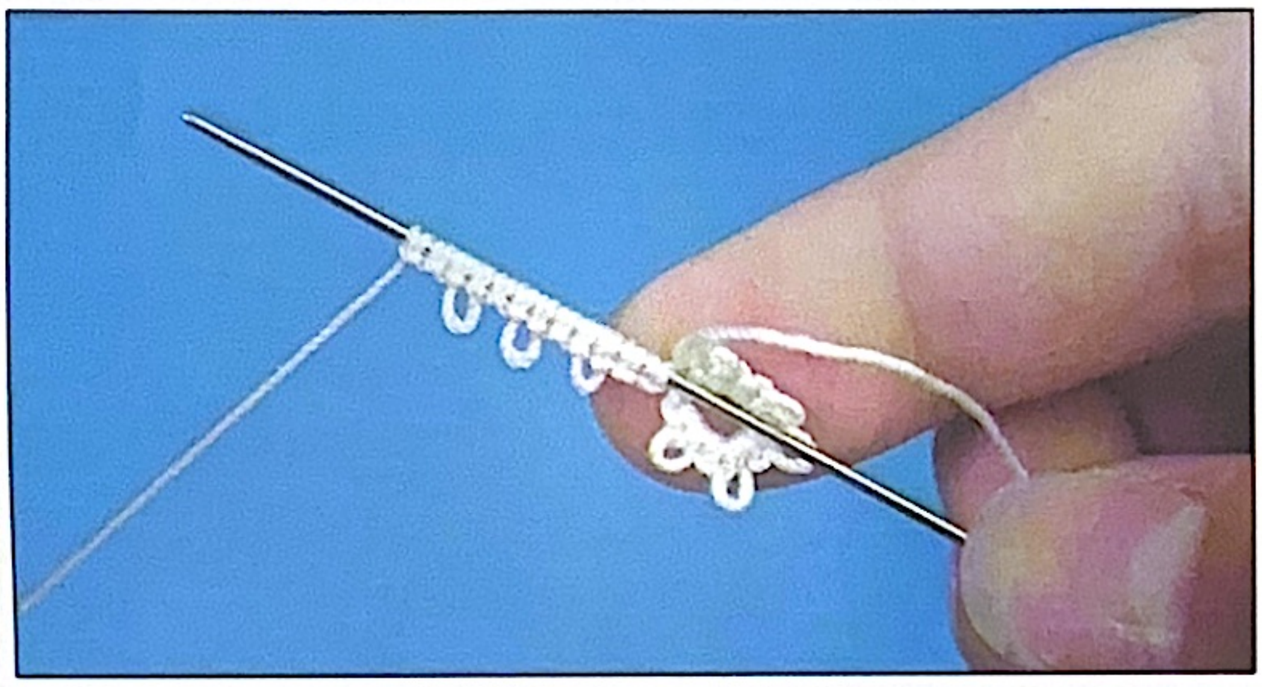
Bring the needle up through the tear drop and pull tight, creating a knot. Avoid letting go of the ring as it may turn back over. The wrong side of the ring is facing you.

Tip: *Determine the right side or wrong side of a ring by looking at a picot, following it into the double stitches. On the wrong side (after you have reversed) there will be two smooth threads at the base of the picot (photograph at left). On the right side, you will see the double stitch "bumps." In the top photo on this page, the ring is right side up; you can see the double stitch bumps.*

Making a Chain

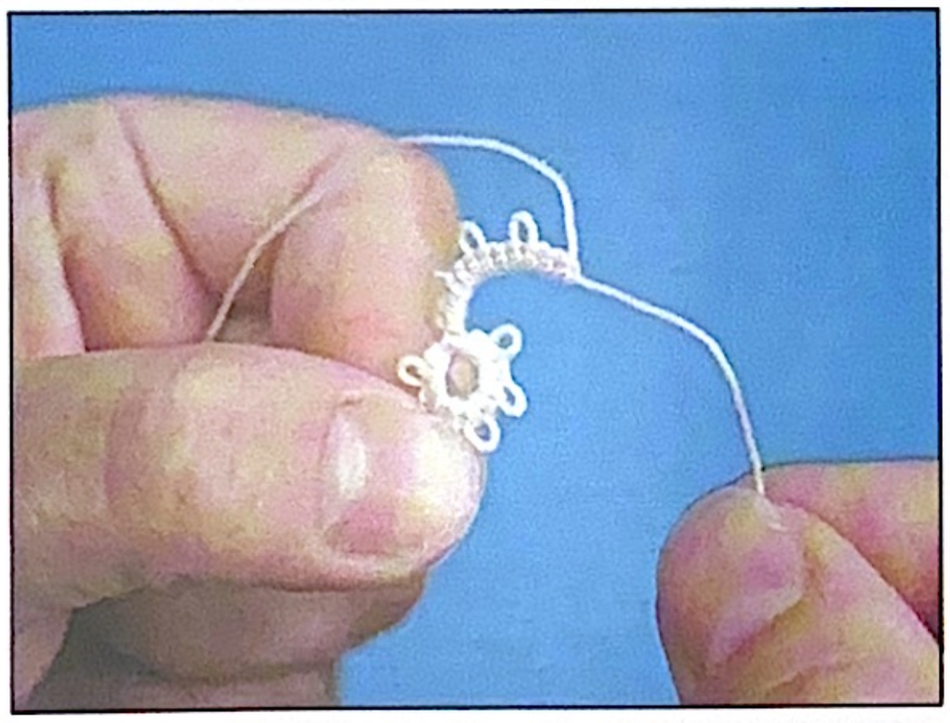


Put the tatting needle on the knot just made.

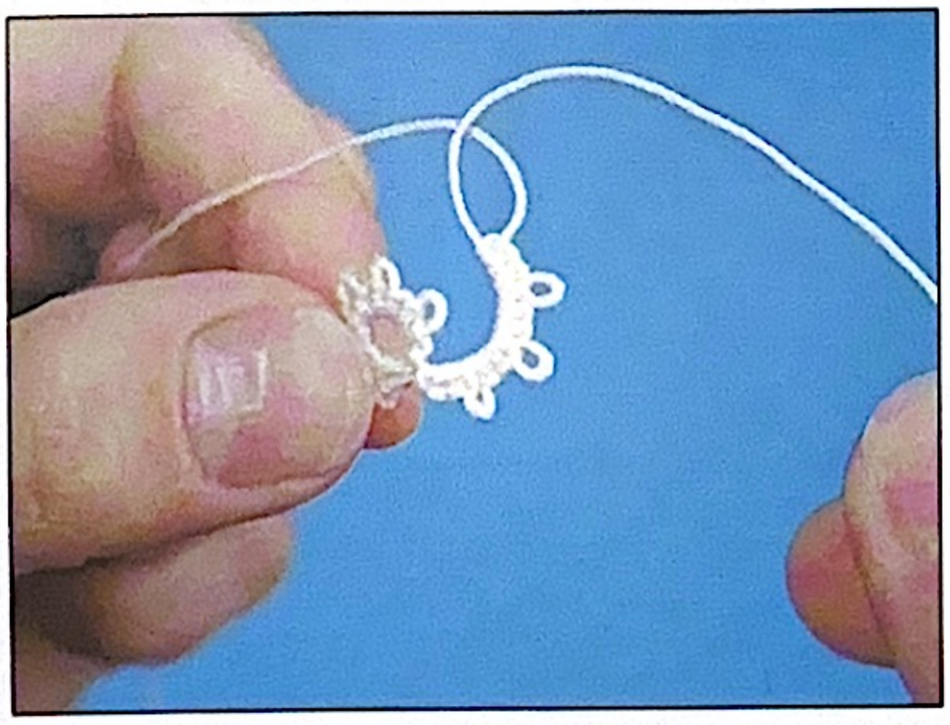


Put 3ds, p, 3ds, p, 3ds, p, 3ds on the needle.

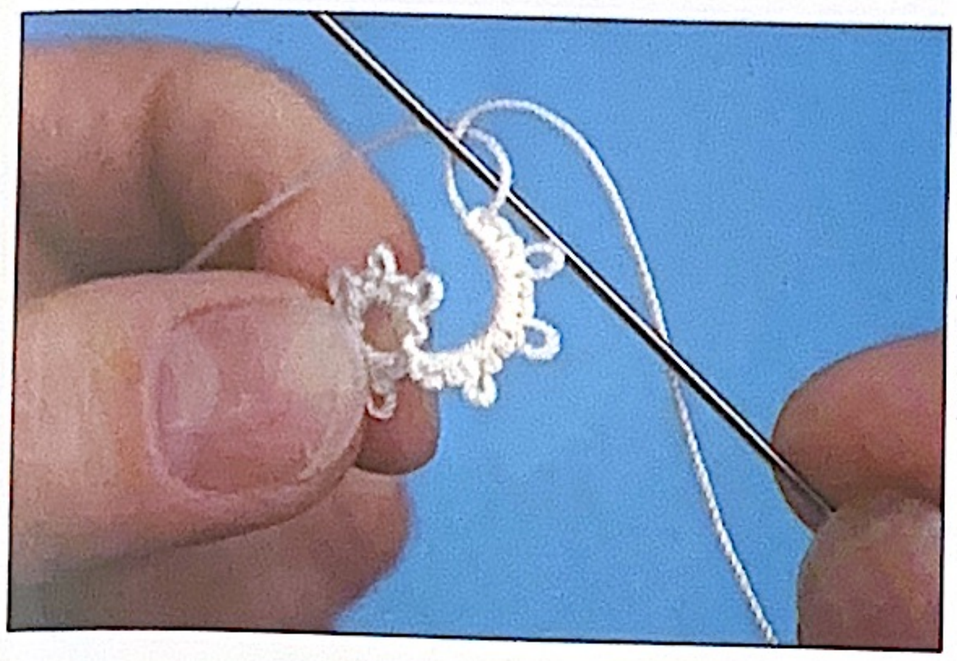
Be sure the first double stitch is next to the ring. Do not leave any space.



Slide the stitches off the needle, and keep pulling them all the way down to the ring. A chain has just been completed.

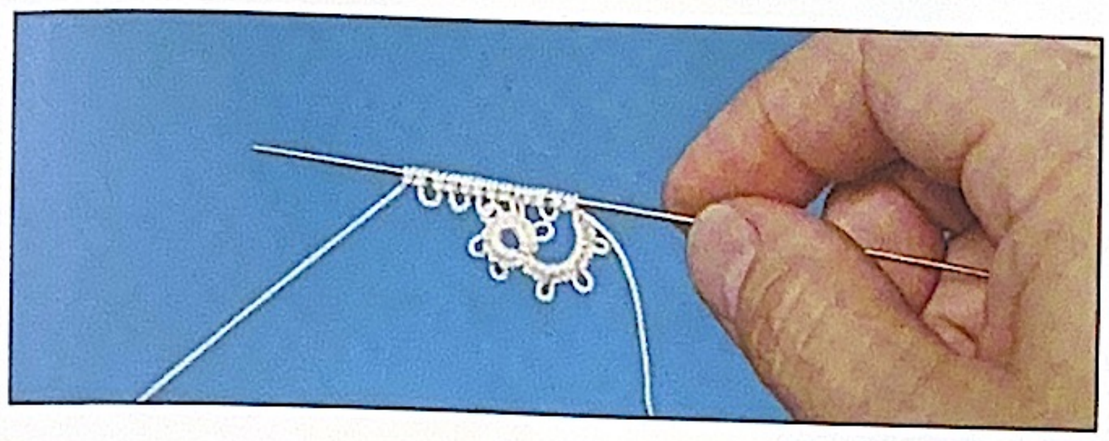


Reverse (Rw). Turn it over, right to left, like a page in a book. A tear drop has been made.



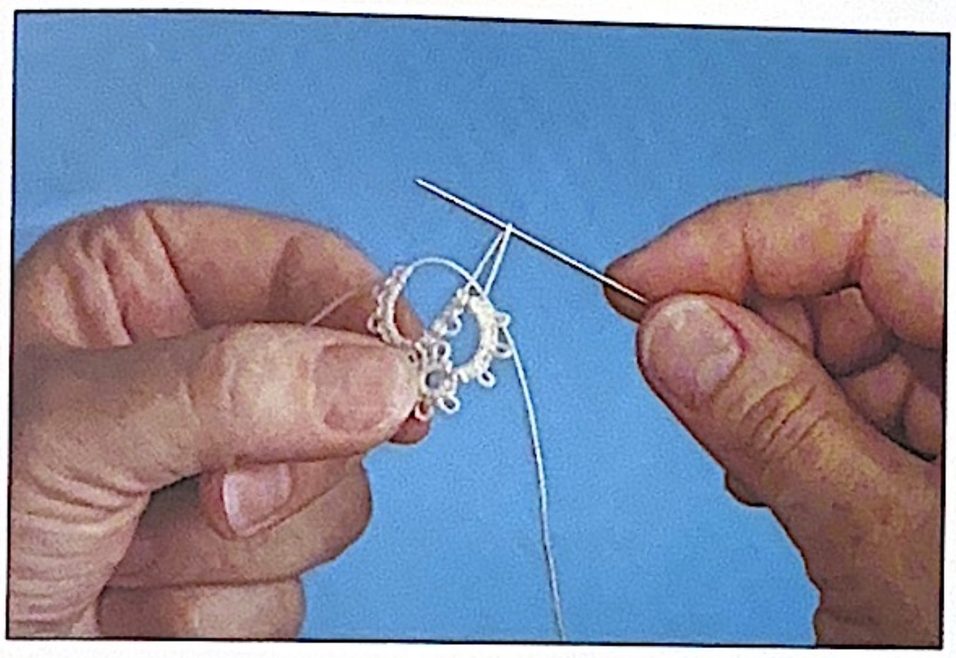
Bring the needle up through the tear drop; that ties a knot.

Note: *The only difference between a ring and chain is this— For the ring, bring the needle and thread up through the loop. For the chain, pull the thread until the loop disappears.*

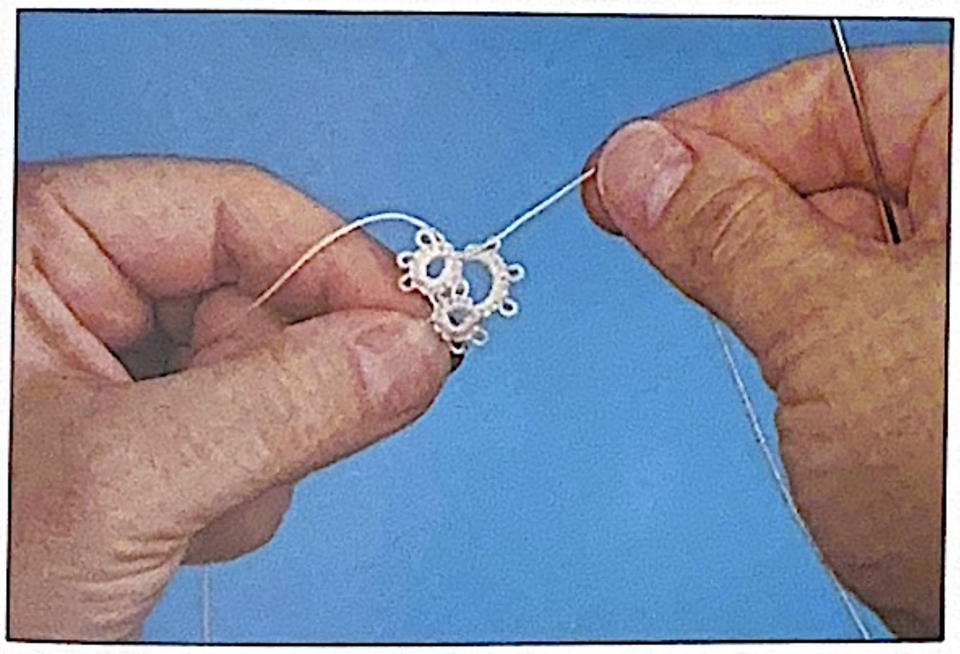


Second Ring

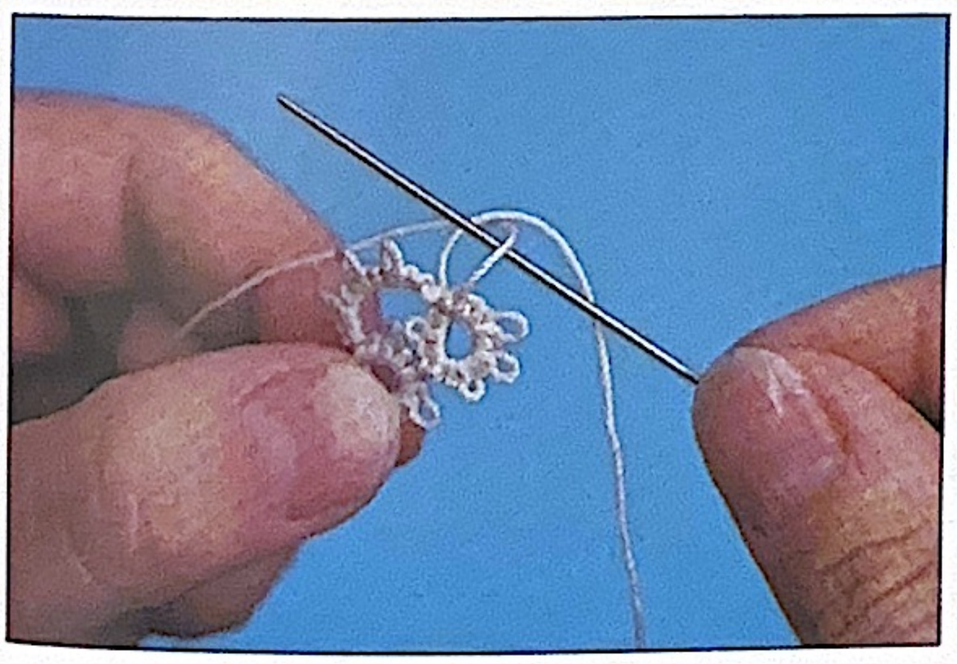
Put 2ds, p, 2ds, +(to next to last p of the Prev R) 2ds, p, 2ds, p, 2ds, p, 2ds on the needle.



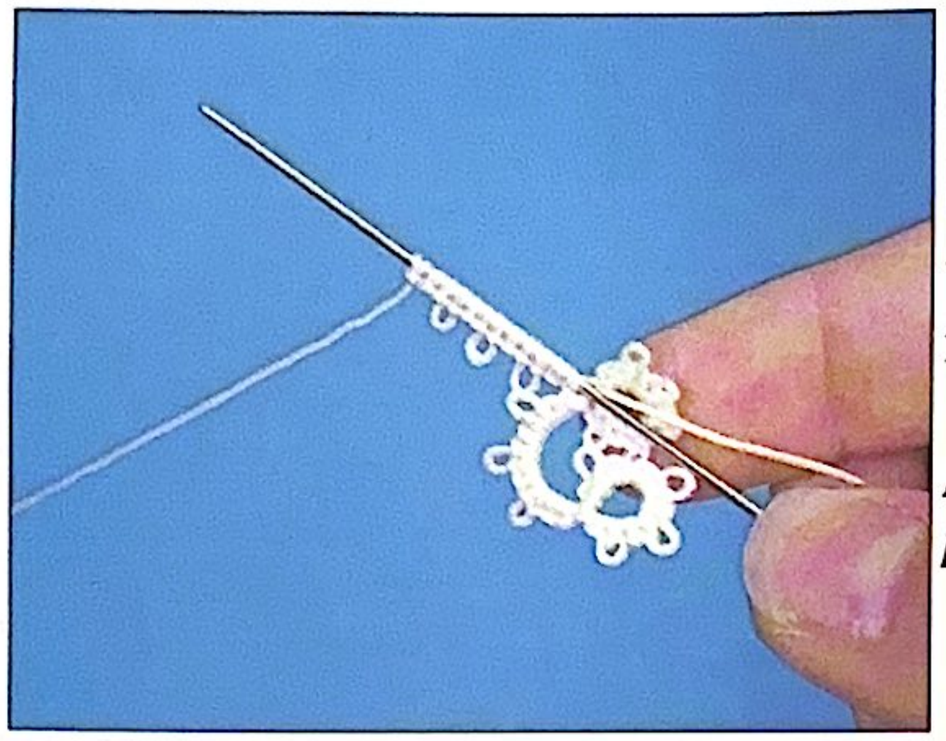
Close the ring, but remember to bring the needle up through the loop.



Pull tight.



Reverse (Rw) the work (turning it to the wrong side) and tie a knot by coming up through the tear drop.



Second Chain

On the needle put 3-3-3-3. Study how the chain on the needle looks compared to the other chain and rings. Slide the stitches off and reverse the work.

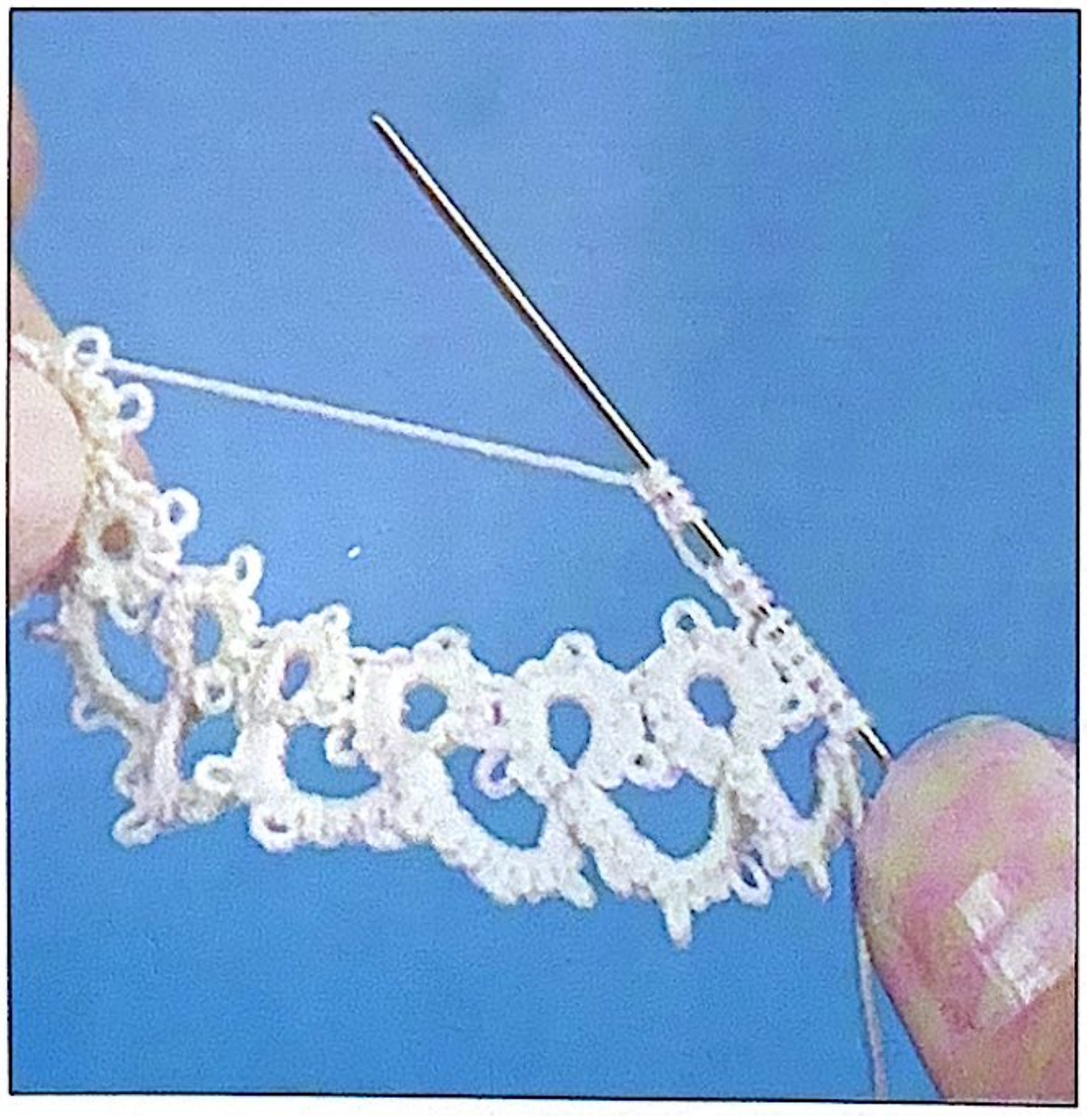
Note: *After every ring and chain, Always tie a knot. If the pattern does not have a reverse you still have to tie a knot.*

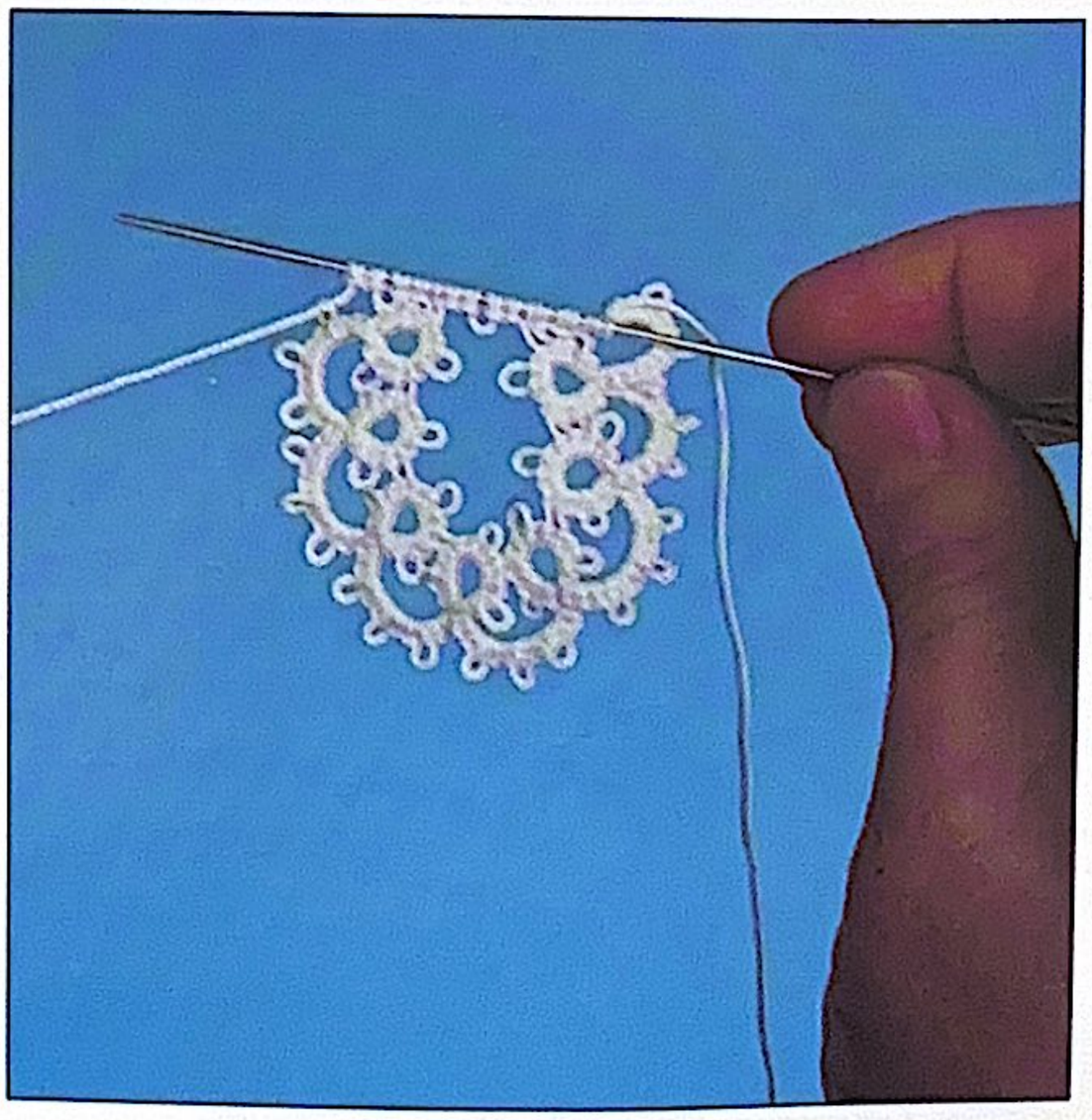
Rows A - D of the pattern have just been completed. Repeat rows C and D until a total of 7 rings and 7 chains are completed.

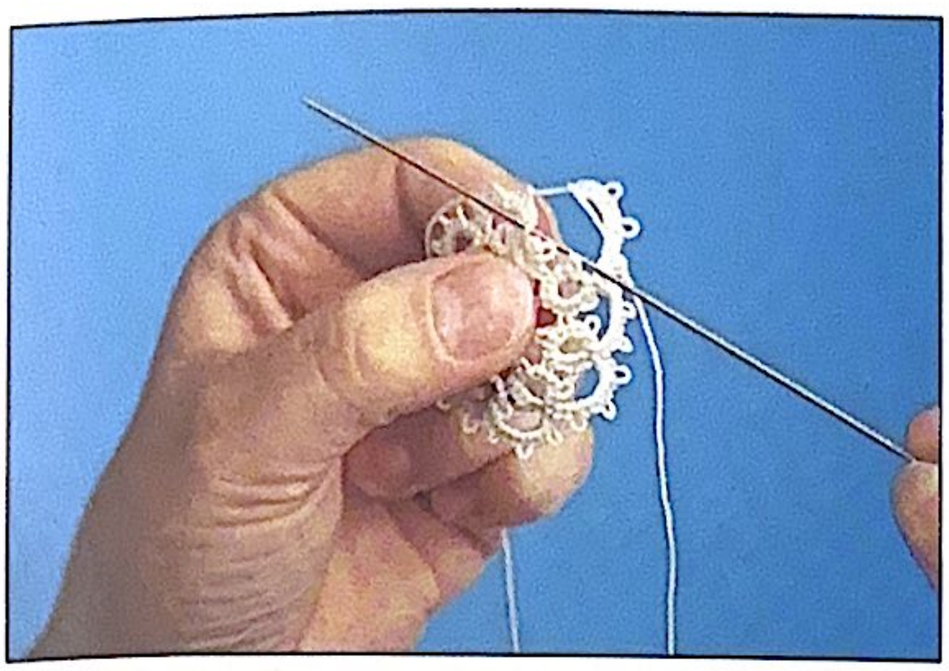
A. R 2-2-2-2-2-2 Cl Rw.
B. Ch 3-3-3-3 Rw.
C. *R 2-2 +(to next to the last picot of the Prev R) 2-2-2-2 Cl Rw.
D. Ch 3-3-3-3 Rw.* Repeat from * to * for a total of 7 rings and 7 chains.

Note: *When working off the ball be sure and ALWAYS tie a knot after each ring and chain!*

Work
R 2-2 +(to next to the last p of Prev R) 2-2 +(to second p of the first R made) 2-2 Cl Rw.

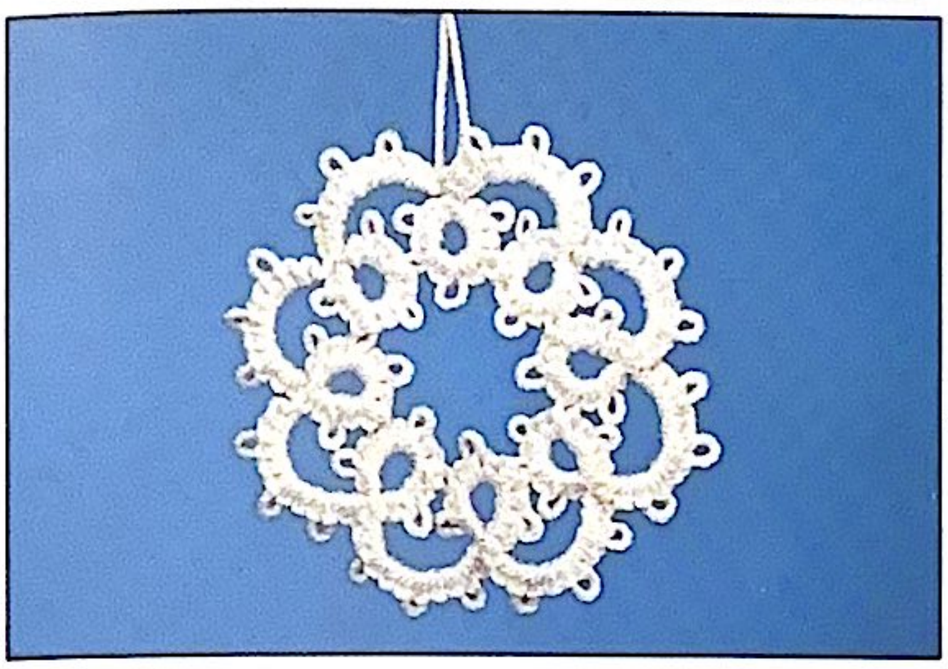






Work a chain of 3-3-3-3 Rw. Tie a knot.

Bring the needle up where the first ring and chain meet. Tie a knot.

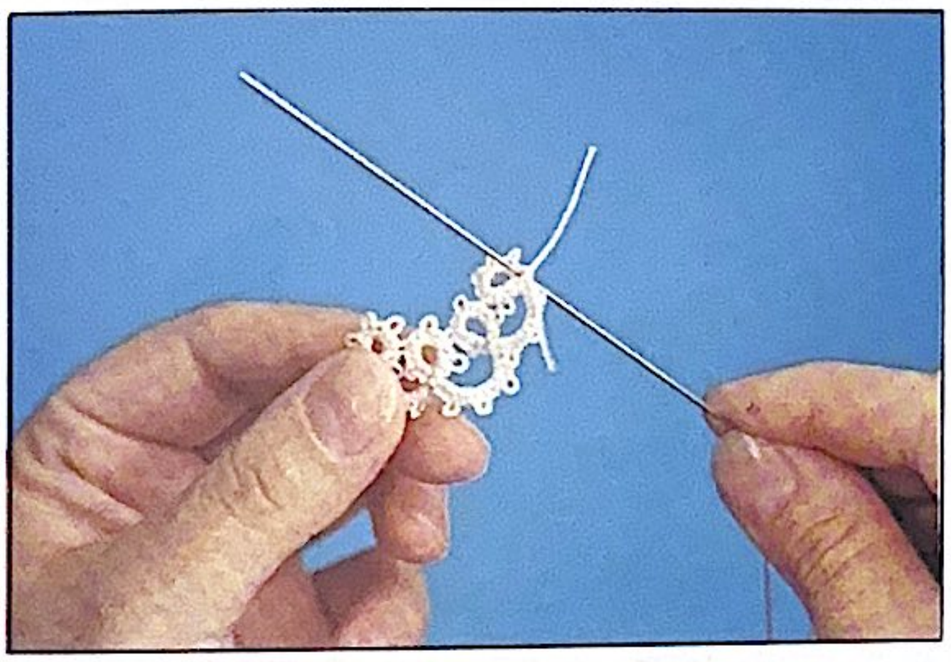


The Medallion has just been complete.

That's Great!

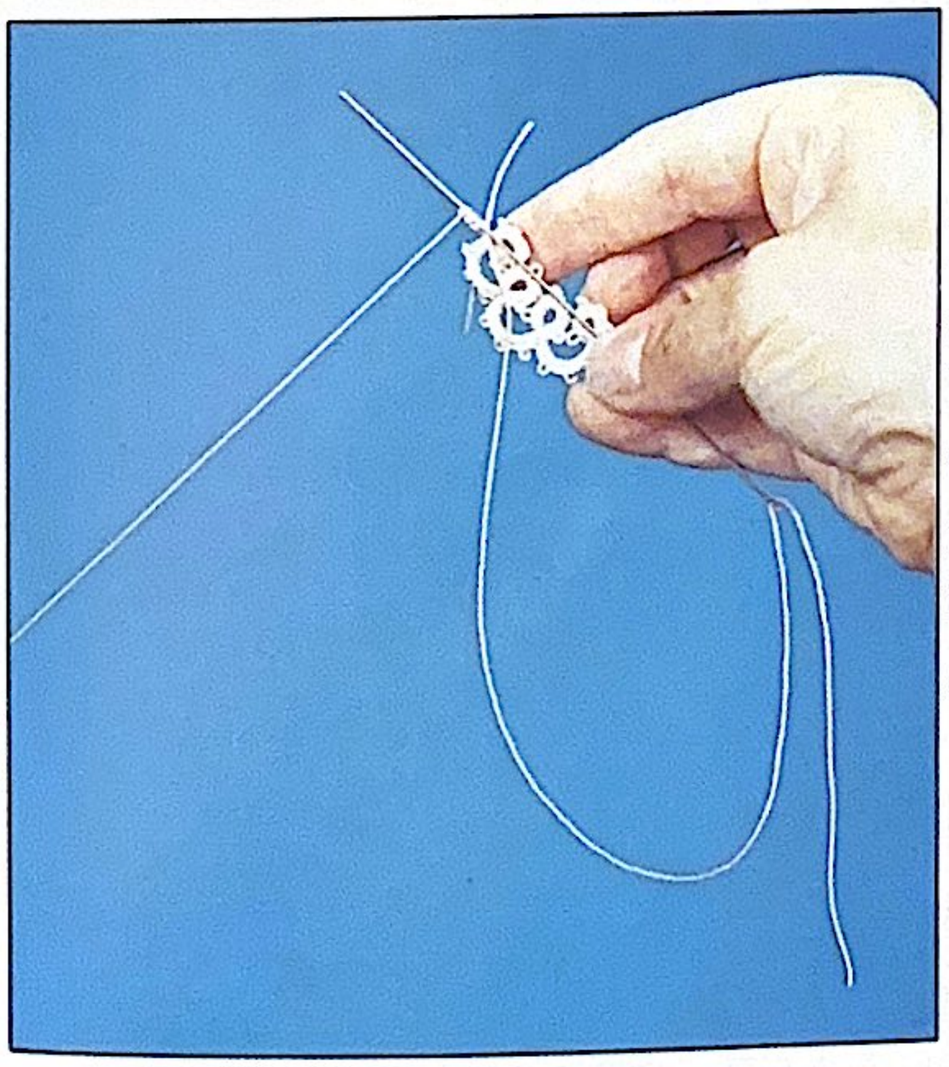
***Note:** For the complete written and diagrammed pattern turn to page 28.*

Adding a Thread



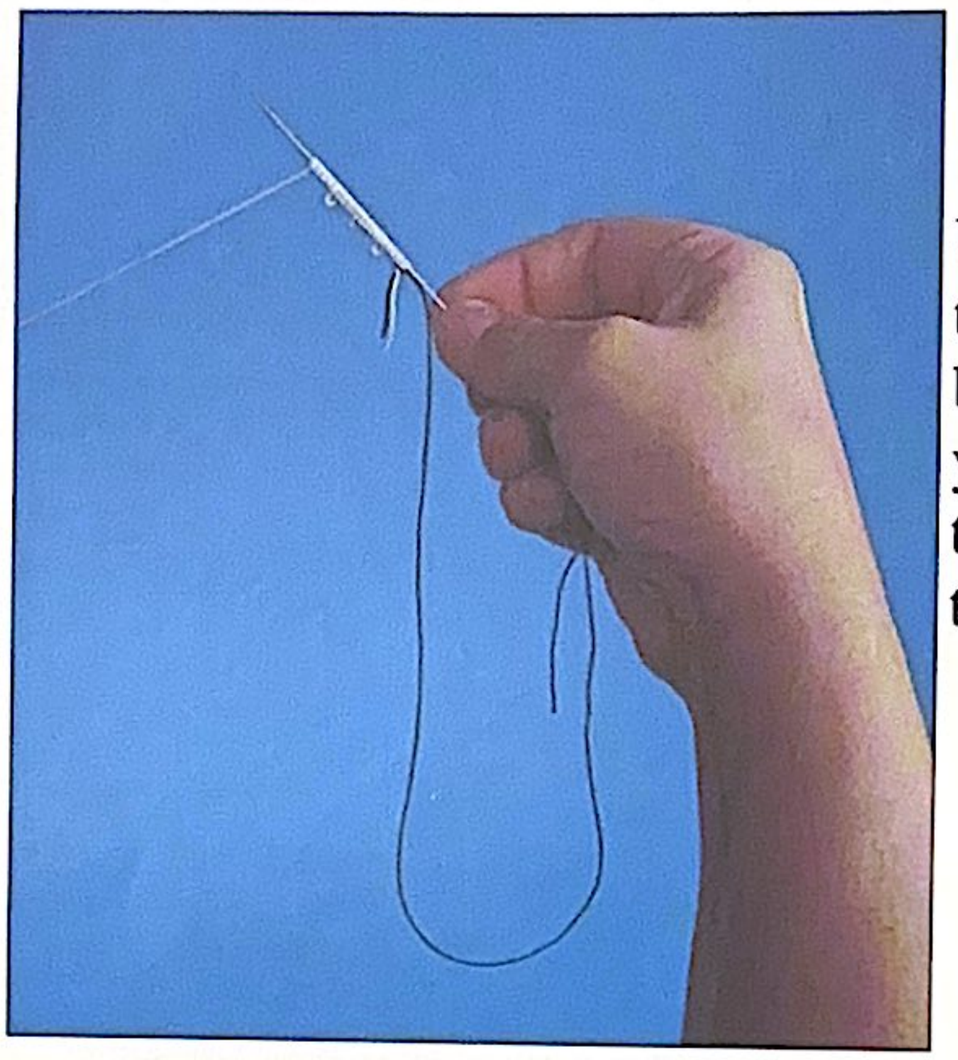
A new thread can only be added at the end of a ring or chain. Adding thread after a ring is best because it be least apt to distort the design.

Cut the needle and ball thread, tie the ends together. Take the ball and thread the needle. Next, push the needle up under the knot.



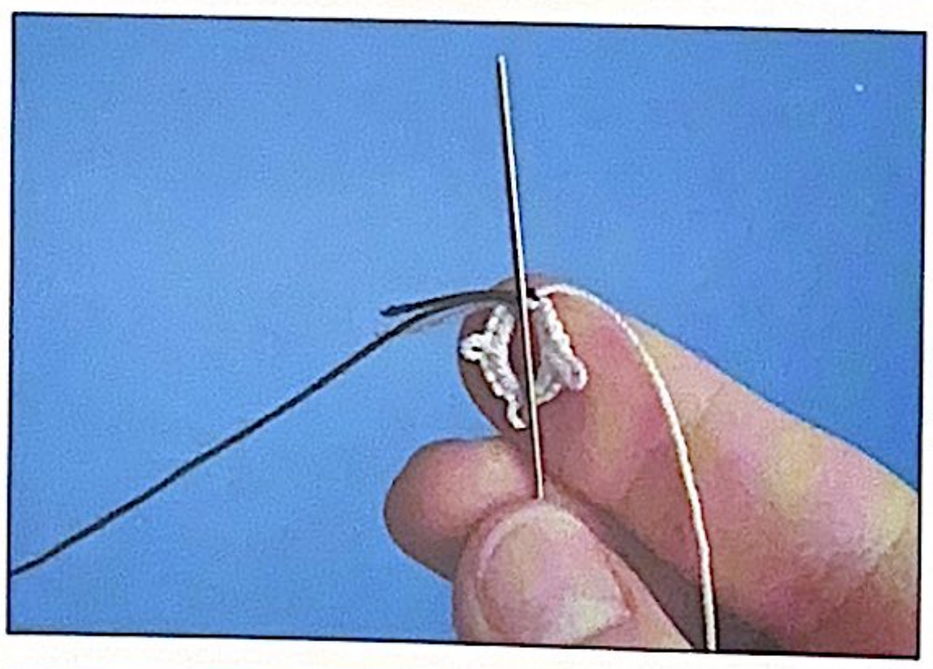
Pull as much thread as needed to the right or needle side of the thread. Put the needle on the knot and begin tatting. The thread may move back and forth under the knot. When all the stitches are on the needle, slide them off as before. The two tails are to be hidden in the double stitches, as explained earlier on page 13.

Two-Color Tatting

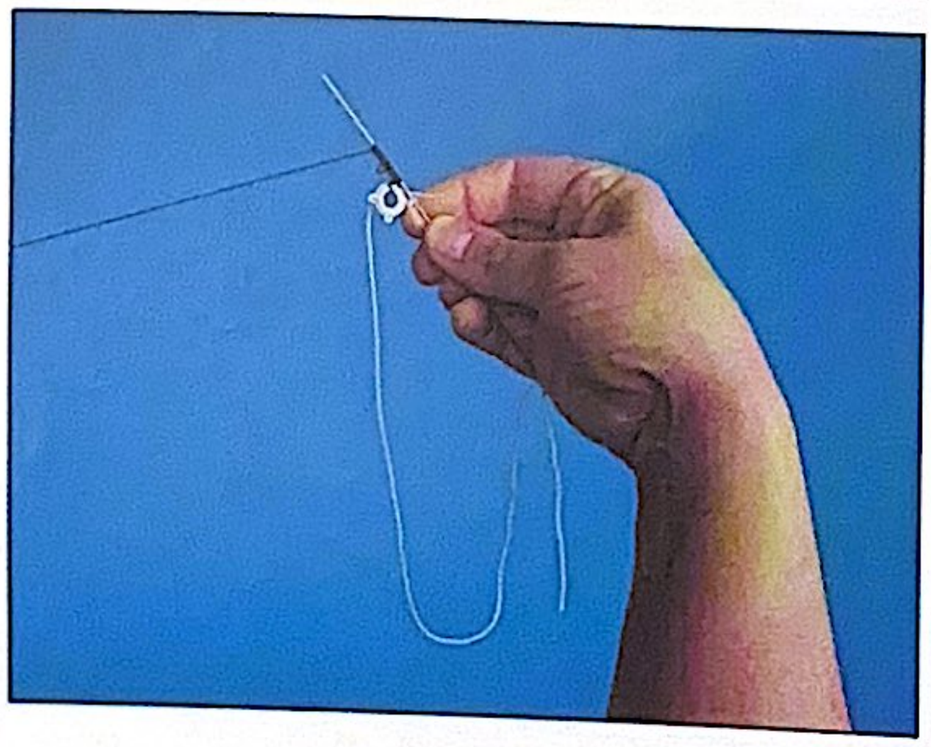


Use two needles the same size and two colors of thread. Cut each 36" long. (I threaded one needle with black; put it on your right. The second needle, on your left, is threaded with ecru.) Tie together the thread ends. Put the right-hand needle on the knot, then work 5-5-5-5 using the ecru thread.

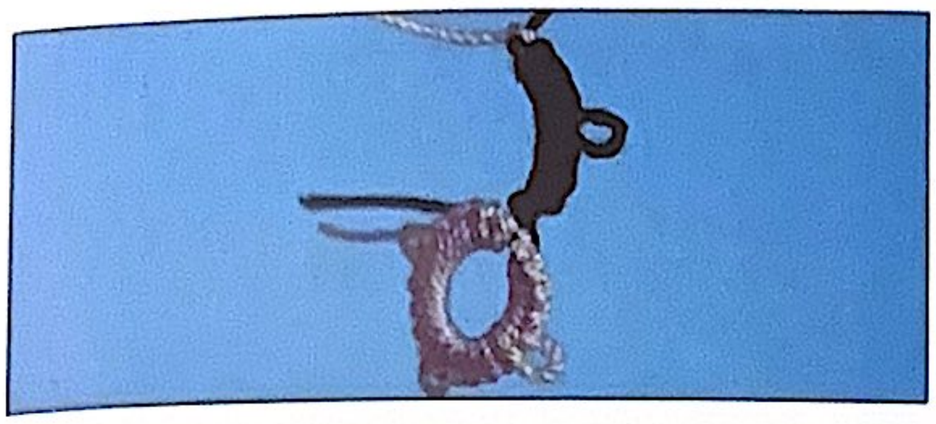
Close the ring and come up through the loop to make the ring. Reverse and tie a knot.



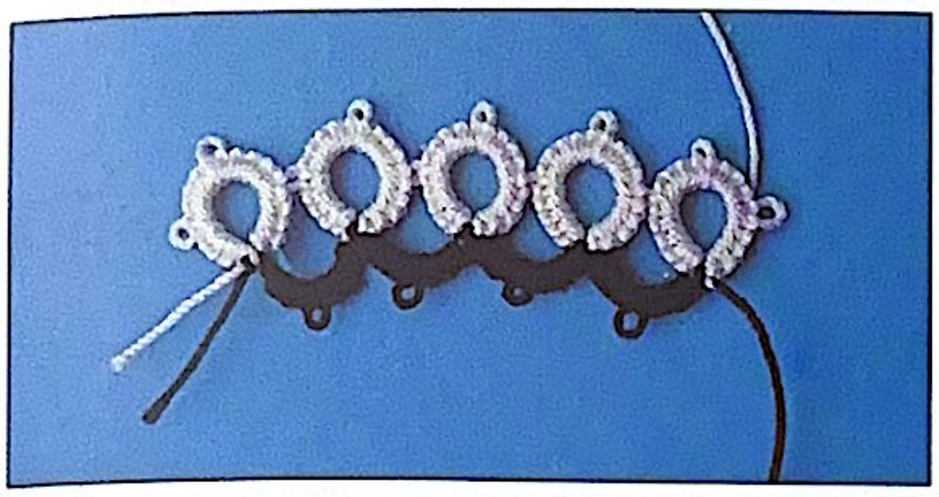
Making a chain:
Put the needle with the black thread on the left and the needle with the ecru thread on the right. Put the needle with the ecru thread on the ring knot.



Using the Black thread, work 4-4.



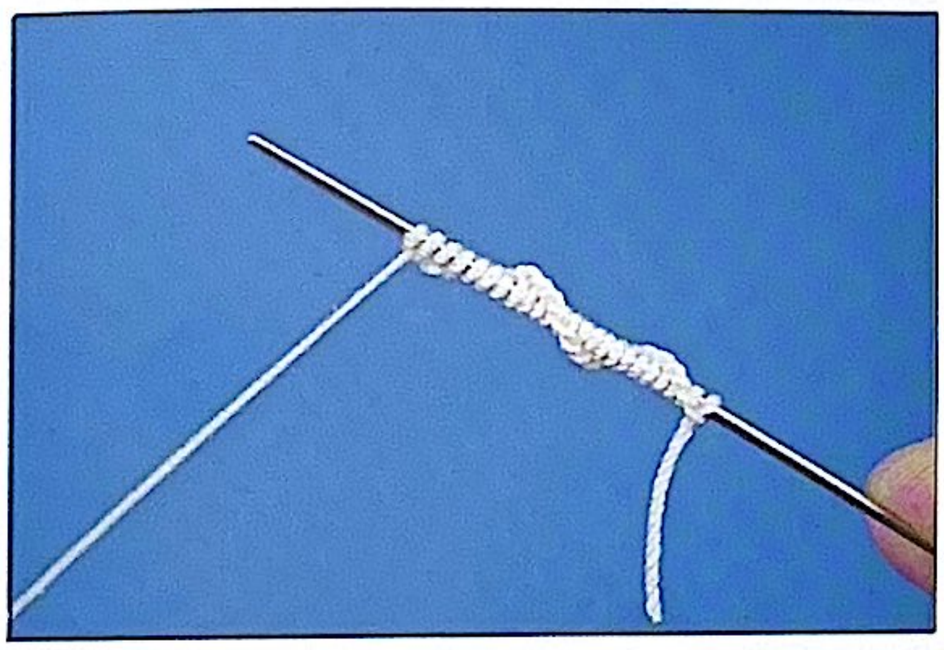
Take the stitches off the needle, reverse and tie a knot.



After completing the first ring and chain, work the remainder in the same manner.

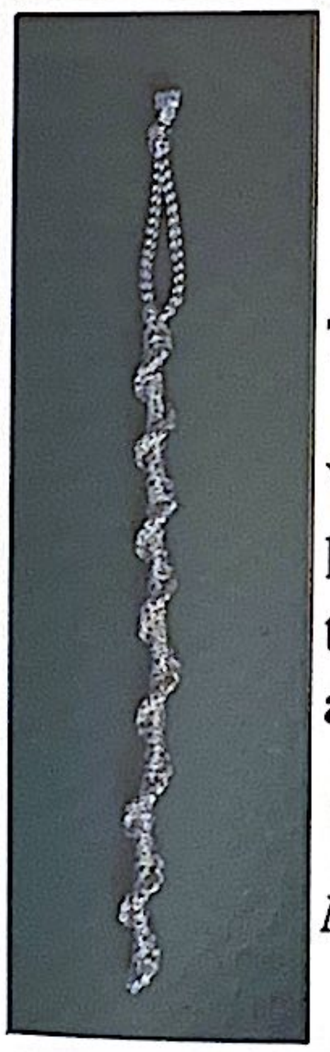
The secret to successful two-color tatting is to hold the needle (with one color) in one hand and work the double stitches using the thread in the second or opposite color.

Josephine Knot



Work the Josephine knot simply by repeating half the double stitch. A pattern usually will state "25 half stitches." Unless directions tell you to work the second half of the double stitch, work the first half whenever you see a reference to JK or half stitches.

A Josephine can be a ring or chain.

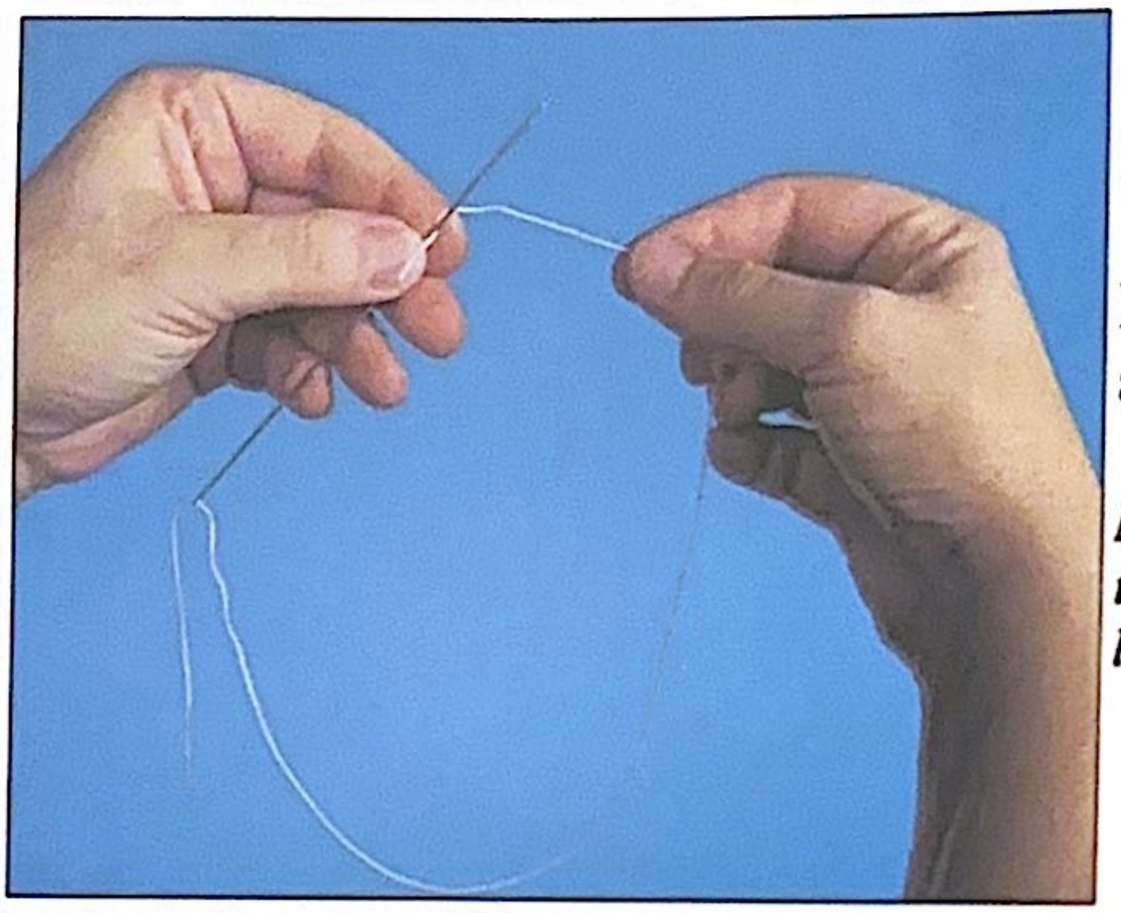


Tat a holiday trim:

Working off the ball using Plastic Canvas Cord and #2-0 tatting needle, put 85 half stitches on the needle. Slide them off and pull snug. Avoid pulling so tightly that the chain curves back on itself. This simple string of stitches makes a nice icicle for the Christmas tree.

***Note:** When the needle is full, slide some of the stitches off over the eye.*

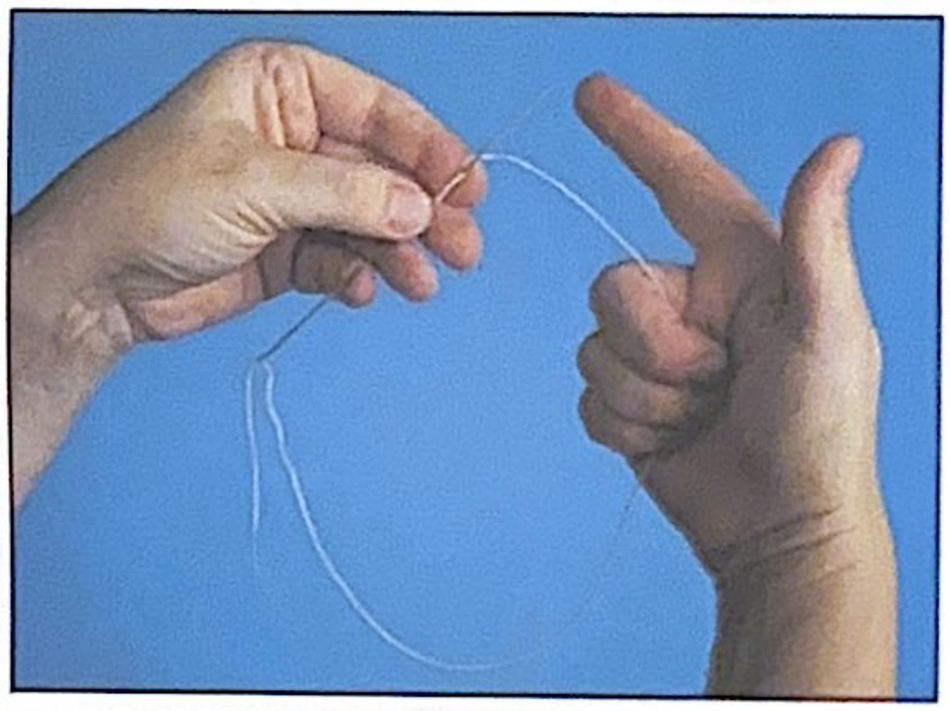
Double Stitch for the Left Hander



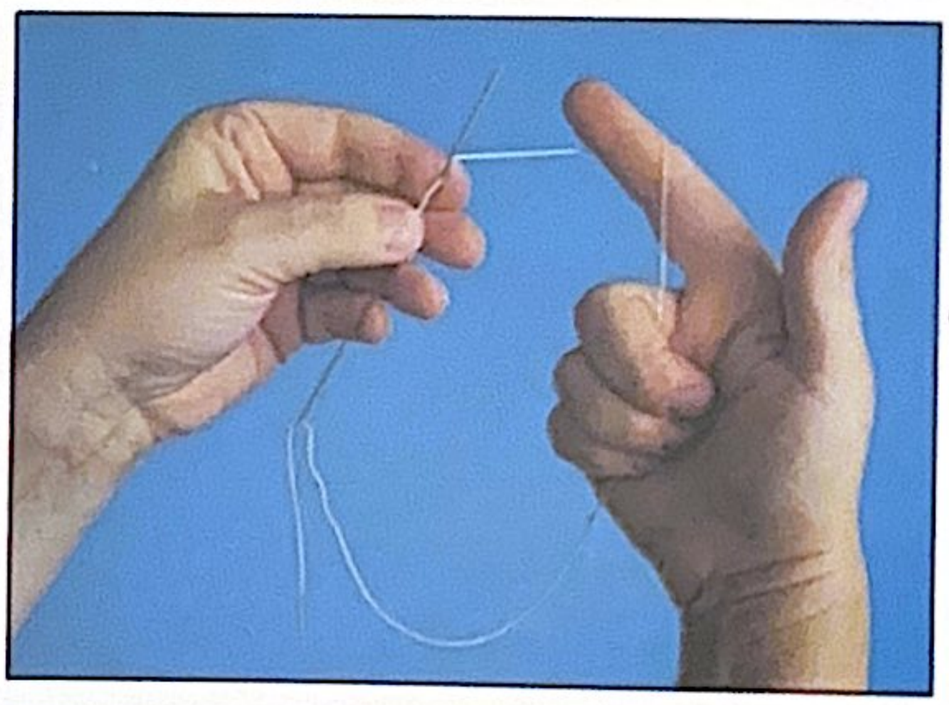
CUT a length of thread off a ball that is 40" long. Thread the needle.

Put the thread behind the needle and hold it against the needle using your left index finger.

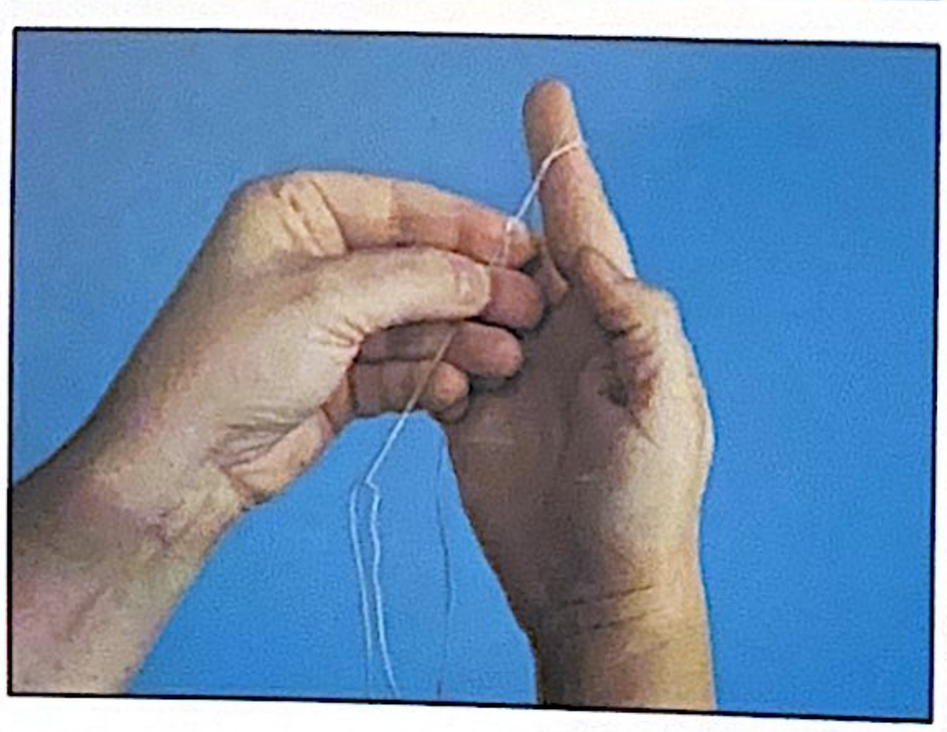
Note: *When you look at the eye of the needle, one thread end is 4" long, the other is 36" long. Pick up longer (36") thread end to start.*



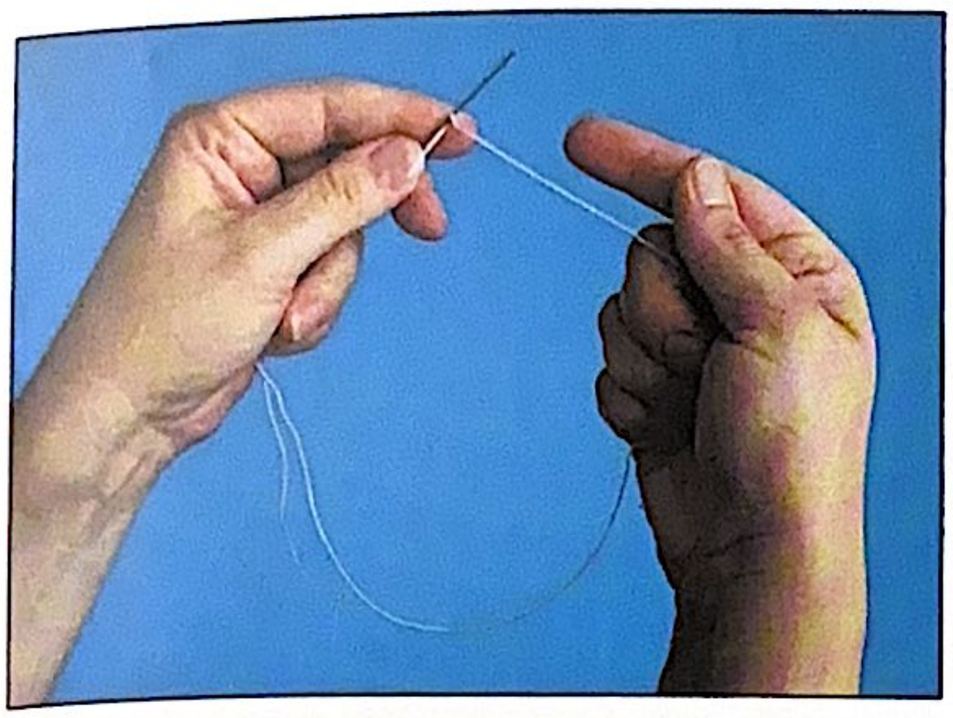
Close your bottom three right fingers to hold the thread. The left index finger holds the thread against the needle.



Wrap the thread on top and over your finger (counter clockwise around).

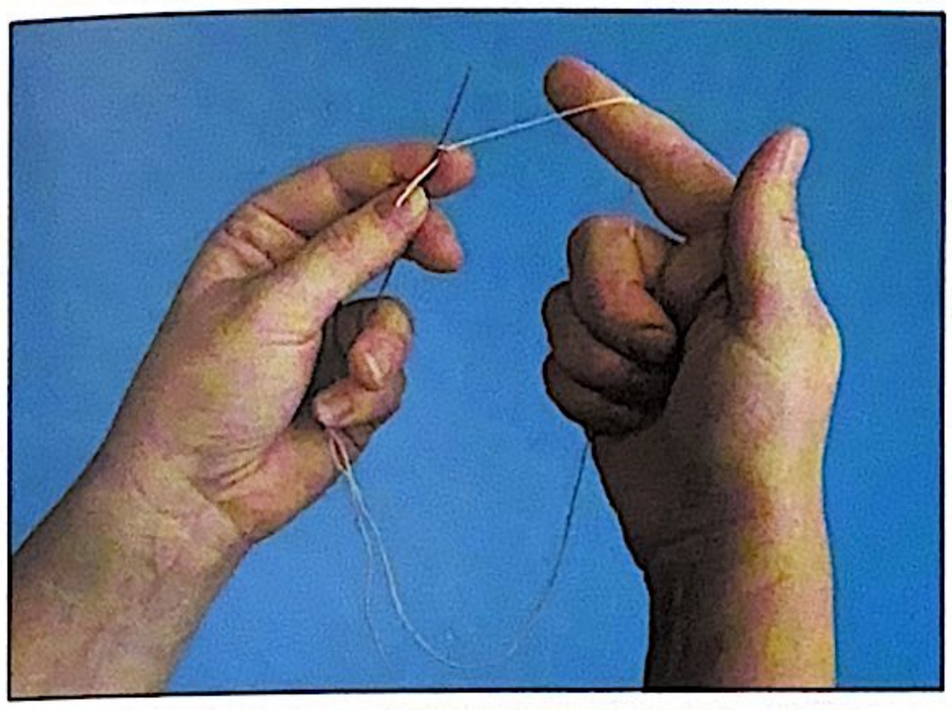


From the bottom of the index finger going upward, slide the needle toward the end of the finger. Put the thread on the needle, then remove your index finger.

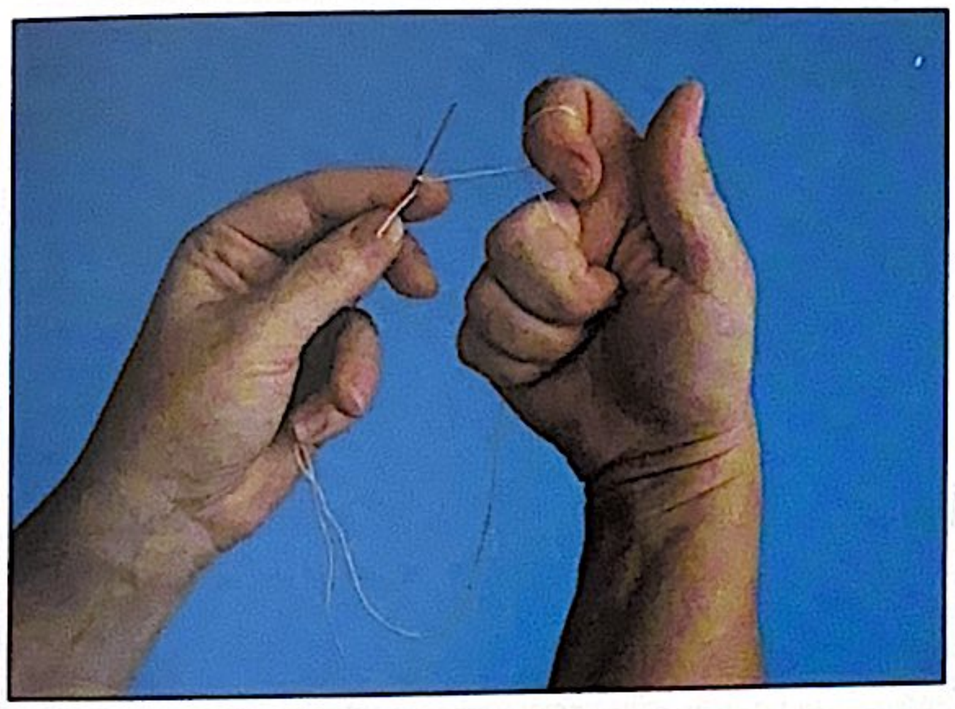


Be sure to hold the stitch with the left index finger.

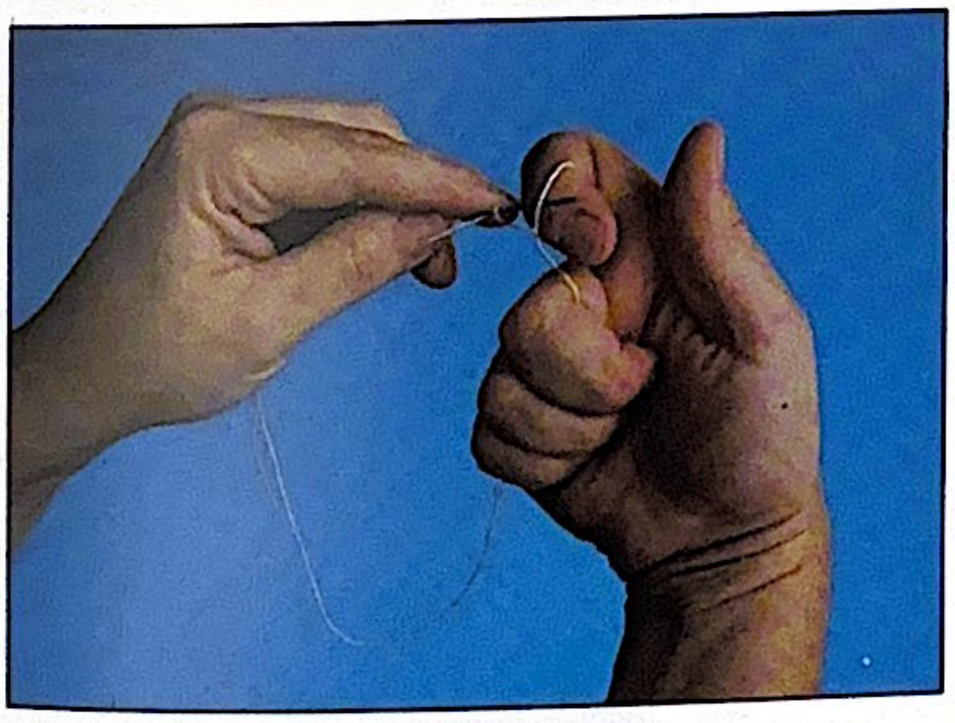
Step 1 of the double stitch is complete.



Next, wrap the thread behind and under your finger (clockwise around).



Bend the index finger.



Slide the needle toward the end of the fingernail, put the thread on the needle and remove your index finger.

Pull the thread down the needle toward the other one and snug them together.

Step 2 of the double stitch is complete. This is the only stitch in tatting. When making a double stitch, slide each one over to the other stitches. Continue at the top of page 8.

Collar or Doily Edging

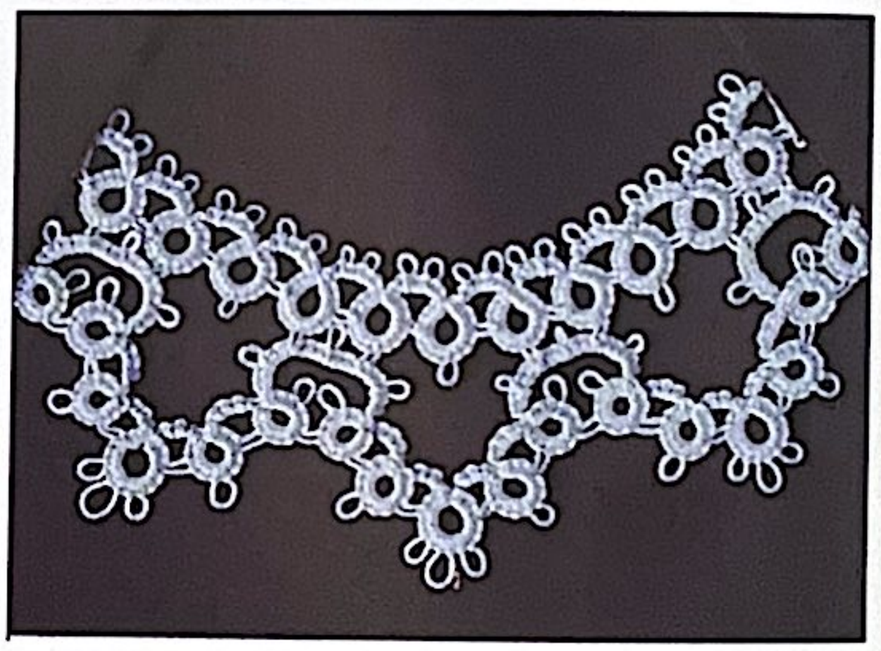
See Abbreviations, page 5.

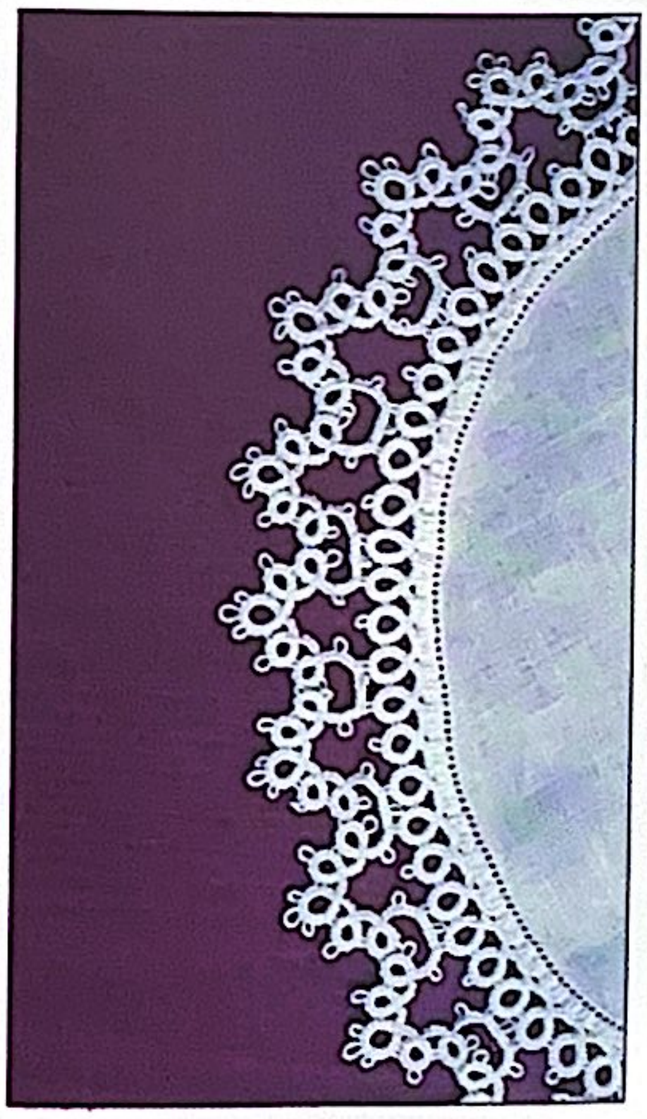
Round 1

R 4-4-4-4 Cl Rw.
Ch 2-2-2 Rw.
*R 4 +(to last picot of Prev Ring) 4-4-4 Cl Rw.
Ch 2-2-2 Rw.* Repeat from * to * for desired length (must be a multiple of 3).
R 4 +(to last picot of Prev Ring) 4-4 +(to the first p of first ring made) 4 Cl Rw.
Ch 2-2-2 Rw. Bring the needle up to where the first ring and chain meet. Tie and cut. Put this piece aside. Again working off the ball thread, thread the needle and start Round 2.

Round 2

R 3-3-3-3 Cl Rw.
Ch 3-3 +(to center picot of any ring made of round 1) 3-3 +(to center picot of next ring of round 1) 3-3 Rw.
R 3-3 +(to center picot of Prev ring) 3-3 Cl Rw.
**Ch 4 Rw.
R 3 +(to last picot of Prev ring) 3-3-3 Cl Rw.
Ch 3 Rw.
Lr 3 +(to last picot of Prev ring) 3-2, Lp, 2-3-3 Cl Rw.
Ch 3 Rw.
R 3 +(to last picot of Prev ring) 3-3-3 Cl Rw.
Ch 4 Rw.
R 3 +(to last picot of Prev ring) 3-3-3 Cl Rw.
Ch 3-3 +(skip next ring of round 1, join into the center picot of next ring of round 1) 3-3+(to center picot of next ring of round 1) 3-3 Rw.
R 3-3 +(to center picot of Prev ring) 3-3 Cl Rw.**
Repeat from ** to ** around until one ring from Round 1 is left.
Ch 4 Rw.
R 3 +(to last picot of Prev ring) 3-3-3 Cl Rw.
Ch 3 Rw.
Lr 3 +(to last picot of Prev ring) 3-2, Lp, 2-3-3 Cl Rw.
Ch 3 Rw.
R 3 +(to last picot of Prev ring) 3-3 +(to first p of first ring made) 3 Cl Rw.
Ch 4 Rw. Join to where the first ring and chain meet.
Tie and Cut





Hand sew the edging on a collar or doily. The tatting may be joined to the doily as you tat, as for the hanky on page B.

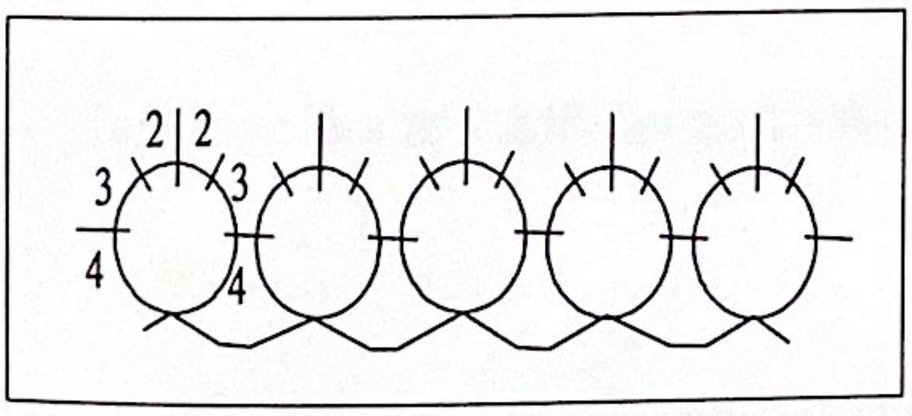
Most collar patterns are versatile. These tops all feature the same pattern worked in different-size threads and needles. The first, left, uses DMC Cebelia Size 5 and a #3-0 tatting needle. For the white shirt, use DMC Size 80 tatting thread and a #7-fine tatting needle. For the last on the right, use DMC Traditions Size 10 and a #5-0 tatting needle. The large butterfly on page C also is worked in DMC Traditions.

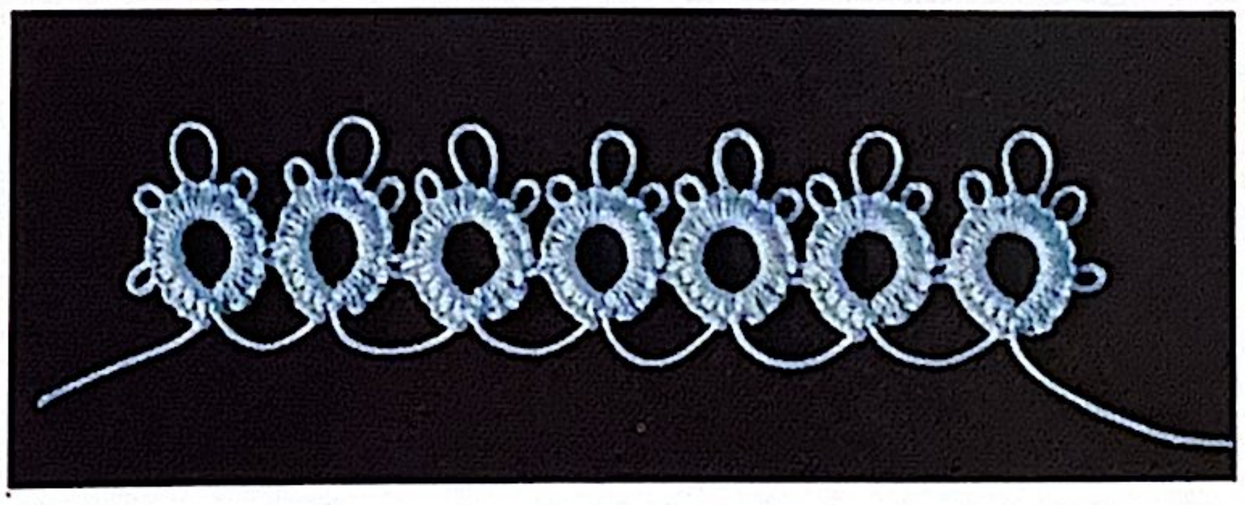
When tatting, you do not have to use the thread that the pattern calls for; tatted items can be made larger or smaller than a pattern recommends. Choose the thread you prefer, using it with an appropriately sized needle.

Pillowcase Edging

Work with a cut piece of thread. You can use up to 5 yards of thread at a time. If you are uncomfortable using that much at once, use 2 to 2 1/2 yards.

R 4-3-2, Lp, 2-3-4 Cl. Leave 1/4" space.
*R 4 +(to last picot of Prev ring) 3-2, Lp, 2-3-4 Cl. Leave 1/4" space *.
Repeat from * to * for desired length. Attach by hand sewing after the edging is completed.

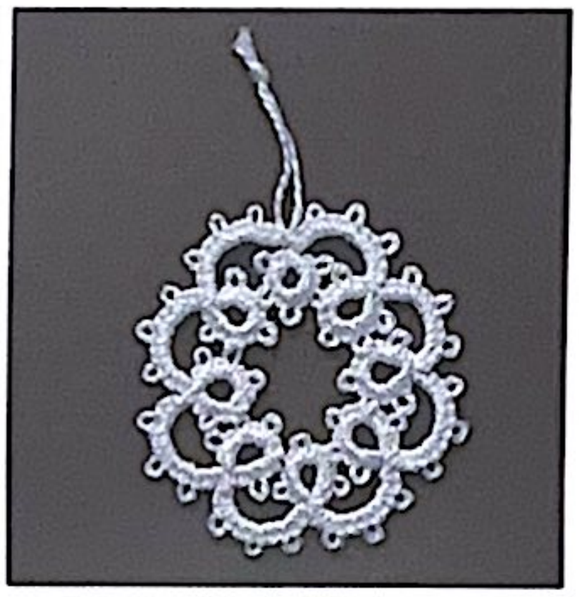


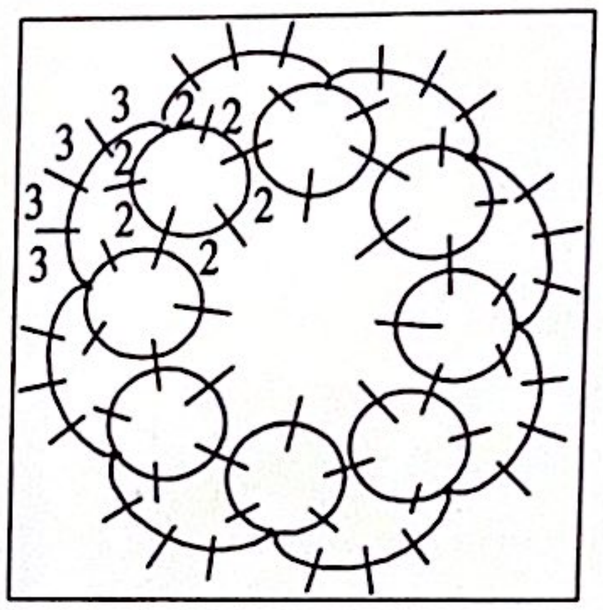


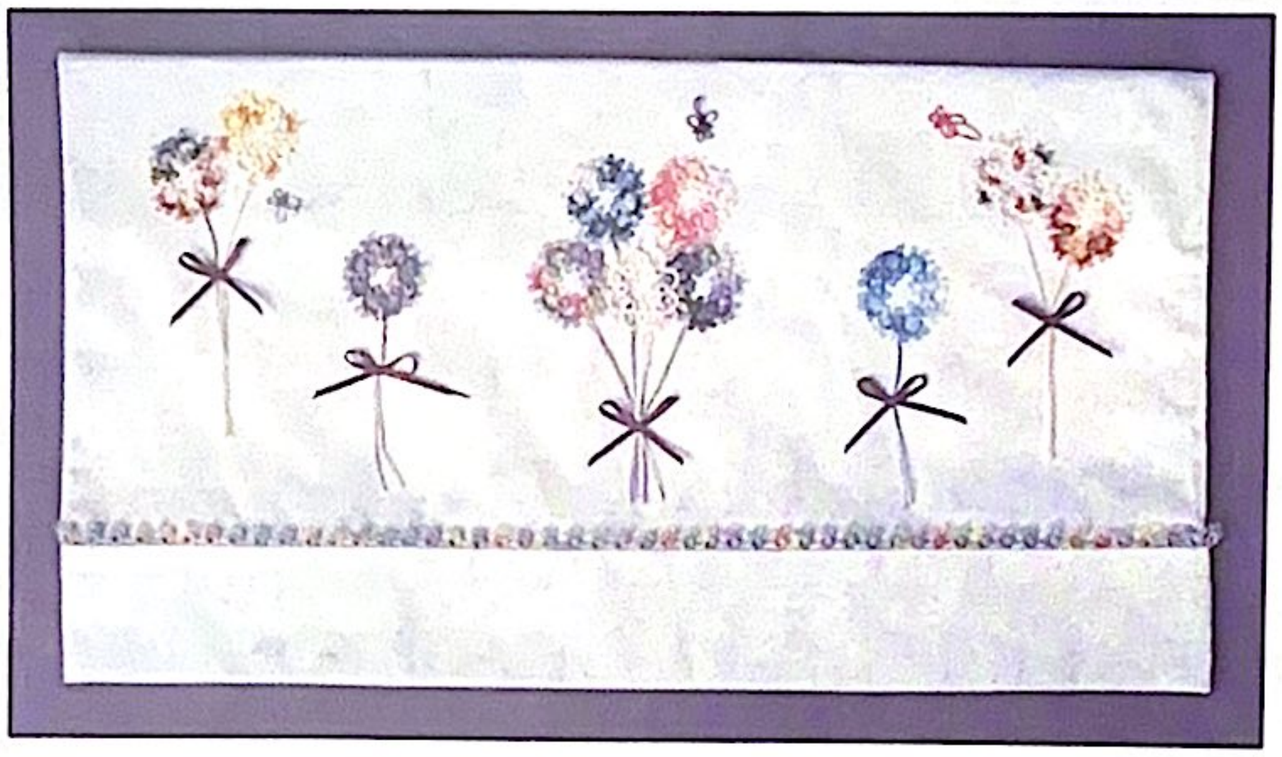
Christmas Medallion

The Photographs below show different ways the pattern can be used.

R 2-2-2-2-2-2 Cl Rw.
Ch 3-3-3-3 Rw.
*R 2-2 +(to next to last p of Prev R) 2-2-2-2 Cl Rw.
Ch 3-3-3-3 Rw.*
Repeat from * to * for a total of 7 rings and 7 chains.
R 2-2 +(to next to last p of Prev R) 2-2 +(to second p of first R made) 2-2 Cl Rw.
Ch 3-3-3-3 Rw. Join to the spot where the first ring and chain meet.







The thread is Manuela Size 20 worked using a #7-fine needle. Small butterfly pattern on page D. Edging pattern on page 27. Hand sew tatting to pillowcase.

Note card is DMC Size 80 tatting thread. Earring is DMC Metallic thread. Wreath is DMC Pearl cotton Size 5.

Holly for Note Card

Work off the ball using DMC Size 80 tatting thread and a #7-fine needle. Tat a clover leaf;

R 4 Cl.
R 4 Cl.
R 4 Cl.

Tie and Cut. Make ring after ring leaving no spaces between rings. Do not reverse after each ring. Make 3 sets. Glue holly to medallion.

Needle Tatting - Beautiful, Versatile, Easy to Master

A step-by-step guide to this popular lace technique